

WINTER, 1997, Volume 4, Number 1

# ABLE TOGETHER

*a forum for men  
with and without disabilities*

Lavender Library, Archives  
and Cultural Exchange  
Sacramento, CA

#9818

*Single Issue Price US\$5*

*UK£4*

*C\$7*

*A\$8*



# **ABLE-TOGETHER**

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Two ABLE-TOGETHER yellow flyers  
are stapled into this issue of the  
newsletter; please pull them out and  
keep them to pass on to someone who  
might like to know about A-T!



## **THE MASTHEAD**

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*Please contact A-T  
if you want to receive this  
issue of the newsletter  
on floppy disk.*

A-T would like to hear from  
some good men with  
grant-writing experience for nonprofits  
to assist us in  
our fund-raising efforts.

*Disabled gay man's project to make videotape representative of gay male sexuality for use in rehab. settings needs YOUR input—see page 22.*



# FROM THE CO-EDITORS' DESK

## CARELESS TALK...

A few years ago I spent the winter volunteering as a sailing instructor at a water sports facility for people with disabilities. The program was run in conjunction with a local teaching hospital specializing in physical therapy, and the two would routinely exchange favors. On one occasion a few of the sports facility's employees and volunteers with spinal-cord injuries, myself included, were asked to take part in a demonstration at a physical therapists' convention hosted by the hospital. The experience was short and painless for me, requiring only a few minutes of my time in front of small groups. And this appeared to be true for all in our cohort. Or so it seemed, until one member was pushed far enough to speak up, and in so doing articulated latent feelings which had been eating at all of us.

Joske was unassuming and amiable, but far from being a pushover. Just firm in his own quiet way. He wasn't overtly emotional in that he rarely yielded opinions and feelings without some provocation. But, when he was singled out that day for a lengthy exercise in front of the entire convention, he erupted emotionally. The individual segment focused on the capability of "quads" who are Joske's "level", and he was repeatedly referred to during the demonstration with some configuration of the words *Joske* and *quad*. Finally, Joske interrupted and offered this observation: "You know, before my injury I was *Joske the asshole*; *Joske the comedian*; *Joske the sweetheart*. But since I'm just *Joske the quad*." He was visibly upset. And, needless to say, it was a disturbing lesson for the capacity room of now-silenced therapists.

I recall the Joske episode as I consider another issue of A-T and reflect on the continuing discussions between Peter and me about life on the frontier between disability and nondisability. Always relevant, always in focus and always confronting us—and I make no apologies for sounding like a cracked record—is the issue, as illustrated by the Joske story, of how much recognition the disability deserves in defining the man. How easy it is to give it too much recognition. As the demonstrations in which Joske and I were participants showed, the shop talk originating in the medical community—the jargon which is helpful in so many respects not only to *them* but also to *us*—can *also* be used carelessly in ways which have hurtful consequences and are experienced as callous. Of course, exactly the same can be said of the general, nonmedical public's approach to disability and its labelling of "that guy in the chair"; "the one on crutches"; "the blind guy". Just what is it that makes a phrase more descriptively useful on one occasion, more wounding and depersonalizing on another? Is there even an answer to the question?



I have told you a story in which definition by disability and detail was experienced as wounding and I will now relate another, altogether more pleasing anecdote. A waitperson in a restaurant to which I am a frequent visitor introduced herself to me one day and asked if I went to a particular cafe. It happens that I do, and when I told her so she said her sister worked at the cafe and had been aware of this "cute guy in a wheelchair", fitting my description, who often uses the cafe. Her sister could have had another man in mind but that consideration is irrelevant to my waitperson's process of inquiry and its effects on me. This experience has stuck with me and pleased me quite beyond the fact that this woman considered me to be cute enough to think I might fit her sister's description. I think what worked so well for me was not so much that she joined the words cute and wheelchair in a single sentence, but that I experienced her to be doing so without any deeper motive than spontaneous curiosity. From her place of no agenda, no reservation and utter matter-of-factness came the purest acknowledgement that a cute guy might just as well be disabled, a guy with a disability just as likely desirable.

Why would anyone in his right mind believe anything else?

—Mike Maurillo

### ...COSTS LIVES

Mike first told me the *Joske the quad* story last year when we were sitting together at his computer editing some A-T personal ads. Phrases using this kind of shop talk are routinely submitted to us by disabled and nondisabled advertisers alike. And A-T does encourage detail such as "C—5/6, incomplete" in the personals. *Men are interested in each others' bodies, especially men in A-T's population.* These shorthand efficiencies serve the same purpose in the A-T personals as they do in the rehabilitation setting which is to facilitate equality of understanding between interested parties: *expectations* of often-seen neck-injury sequelae such as—some atrophy/loss of function to hands and/or arms; loss of tone to abdominal muscles; catheterization and leg-bag—are in this way usefully conveyed in shorthand by the advertiser to his potential respondent(s); whilst the *very exis-*



## FROM THE CO-EDITORS' DESK

*tence and use* of this shop-talk shorthand shows us all that this shop is big and widespread and that there are a lot of us doing the talking, and it serves to *normalize* the experience of these differences in our lives.

As we see it, personal advertisers in A-T want to communicate degrees of understanding, acceptance and expectation concerning disability and difference. Mike and I see our editing job in terms of exploiting the communication efficiencies of shop talk—whilst at the same time making sure the edited text keeps sight of the relation between *the quad* and *the asshole*; *the comedian*; *the sweetheart*.

*Careless talk costs lives* is a British slogan from World War II when, it was feared, spies could be anywhere. *Saying something innocently doesn't guarantee an innocuous outcome*. And careless shop-talk has its sequelae of emotional deadening. In this issue of the newsletter, as we enter our fourth consecutive calendar year of publication in the new magazine format, Michael Perreault movingly shows us how the nondisabled world's purportedly helpful, yet careless focus on the *can do/can't do* mechanics of his physical difference has actually *created* handicaps to add to his experienced burden of being a polio survivor.

*Careless talk costs lives*. What we say, and what we fail to say, sends and reinforces messages and beliefs. As this issue's featured contributions illustrate, *my body is not meant to be like this* easily metamorphoses into *no-one in his right mind will desire me physically* and has deadening effects upon the interaction between the man who believes this about himself and the man, nondisabled or disabled, who, it happens, does desire him. If you have spent half a lifetime subject to this belief, it will be very, very painful emotionally to risk discarding it. It might even be easier to discard being desired. In his very personal, and thought-provoking review of Kenny Fries' new memoir, *Body, Remember*, new A-T contributor Bob Guter gently chastises his author for his insufficient exploration of this issue. After you have read Bob's review once, read again the paragraph containing the quoted words "important", "likes" and "fetishist"—and if their association provokes some insight in you, please write and tell us.

Mike's waitperson wasn't trying to pick him up. If she had been, would she have been seeing the "importance" of the experience of disability, would she have been a woman open to "liking" men in chairs—or would she have been a "fetishist"? Would she have been *in her right mind*—or not? Or is there something not quite right *about the actual asking of these questions*? Look at how the innocent word *liking* is confined within inverted commas. Look at the trouble we all get into, and all because of our culture's deeply ingrained beliefs that *keep us from just knowing* that a cute guy might just as well be disabled, a guy with a disability just as likely desirable.

—Peter Hegedus



# INTERVIEW

*A-T co-editor Peter Hegedus, who is nondisabled, talks to subscriber Michael Perreault, a polio survivor who uses a cane; a transcript of the first part of this interview, which was published in the Fall, 1996 A-T, is available on request.*

**PH** We have been talking about your feeling *automatically excluded* from being an object of desire ever since your experiences of heterosexual dating at high-school. You said you saw the hierarchy: even if people had that all-inclusive broad range of physical types they find acceptable, *you* were clearly not in it.

**MP** That's right. And, as I was saying, *mostly* I don't have any evidence that people do admire a broad range of physical types—let's say to include those who are overweight, or who have a disability.

I have to assume that what I hear is where people are. This goes back to junior-high, then high-school, college, the gay bar scene. People talking about all the cute ones and going after them and not going after me. My only conclusion is that I'm not in the running to make the grade. The only ones that ever expressed any interest in me were the ones *I also* considered to be as much *losers* as I was. They never got invited to anything either.

But I also felt that people overcompensated in the positive. I remember at a dance in junior-high that some of the girls would make a point of asking me to dance, because they didn't want me to *not* be dancing. And I went along with it, all the while knowing it was a "charity dance". I don't know why I would go along with it. I guess I kinda wanted to be taken care of, perhaps because some is better than nothing. And perhaps because it's hard to say no, be negative.

**PH** You felt you have to be friendly if they mean well, is that it? *Everybody's friend and nobody's lover.*

**MP** And I guess I'm still wondering how I fit into that. I've come to realize I have to be very careful when I go out. What is my frame of mind? Am I already feeling needy and vulnerable? Do I need to have somebody find me attractive? If so, should I in fact stay home, because it may not happen? Years ago I was just *desperate* to be sought out, picked up. Getting laid soothed my ego—*maybe I'm not so undesirable after all.* And I look back on that, and that went on for years, that kind of thinking. And I want to have compassion for myself in that context: what must have been going on with me, for such a preadolescent way of dealing with things to have lasted so long—and even to this day it is still functioning?

**PH** The fundamental belief that you are undesirable.

**MP** Yes. All things put together, I don't get a passing grade. And the world reinforced my own belief that I was a loser. I thought, *gee I'm glad I was born into this family, because if I had had to have been adopted I wouldn't have been adopted.*



**PH** And the only way you can rest from that belief is on the occasions when you can experience someone desiring you.

**MP** It's never ending. And I want to make the point here that we're talking *right now* about the physical difference/physical desirability aspect, and that *this is only one layer*. What I have come to realize over the years is *why* it's never ending, even when I do get laid and have those moments of feeling desired. Firstly, there was also a *social* undesirability that I had, a *self-consciousness*, that is greatly lessened now but that is still there, of having major *gaps* in my own development, experiences that a quote-unquote-normal kid gets a chance to go through and be supported in. And of course that might also be all bound up with being gay as well. Another layer is all *my* emotional baggage to do with being disabled—and beyond that there's all the unconscious stuff that *the other person* brings to it.

**PH** There's an urgency in your voice as you say this. Let me see if I understand. When we focus our discussion on any one aspect, perhaps particularly the physical difference/desirability aspect, we run the risk of losing sight of the complex web of differences stemming and branching like roots from disability. The *never-endingness* you speak of comes from the fact that, even when one aspect is feeling good—let's say, you're getting laid—there's some other part feeling raw. And, even if pretty much all of you is feeling good, there's still the *interactional* aspect of what might be going on for the other person, and how *that* might impact you.

**MP** I think it's important that our discussion is framed in this way: that, when we are talking in detail about any one aspect, we can somehow hold that whatever we happen to be talking about, it's just the tip of the iceberg; having the tip 'scoped doesn't necessarily mean we can manage to map out and avoid the whole iceberg.

**PH** I think I can understand what you're saying and how important that would be. Let's see how it goes.

I'd like to ask you about each of these aspects of your experience of disability in turn. I think you were talking about social undesirability and self-consciousness brought about by developmental gaps; can you give me an example of what you mean by the gaps?

**MP** Some of them are about knowledge of how to negotiate social situations with peers. When I started kindergarten I was pretty much on an equal basis with all the other kids. All the social activities were kept in the classroom and everyone was doing pretty much the same sort of stuff. But that changed progressively with growing up. Their skills and mine began to be different. By the time of the second, third and fourth grades, going off for recess, when the bell rang, the kids all *ran* out of the room. All *I* could do was walk. So by the time I got to the playground all the games had been chosen and the teams all decided. And the teacher had to intervene, or some of the kids who were the leaders had to bring everything to a stop so that I could be included. So I got to



feel that even though I was being included, it was *because* I was different. 9  
There was not an even playing field. No equality. When it was time to play baseball, instead of throwing the ball they rolled it on the ground. That's how I hit it. And somebody else ran to first base for me. And I'm looking back on that thinking, *that's not playing baseball !!* [Laughs.]

PH That system seems *painfully unreal* to me. Who invented it?

MP I think the teacher did. I think it was because they didn't want to see me stuck with that whole quality of being left out, singled out. I don't know if there was a better way. For me none of the ways worked. [Laughs.]

You know, this reminds me of Susan, who we talked about earlier. At one time I was wondering about getting a dog, and she said, *oh, I'll walk the dog for you*, and I was really angry, but I felt I couldn't say anything because I would be accused of being negative.

PH What did you need to say to her?

MP That it may be a nice, pat way for *her* to compartmentalize my disability, but being bailed out on that basis isn't what it's all about *for me*.

PH Let me see if I understand. It seems that, as with the baseball-playing, it's a case of *them* judging you on a physical basis and then deciding, from *their* ableist perspective, how *you* can best fit in to *their* quote-unquote-normal way of living—

MP Yes. But more than that, it's not *mutual*. Again it's back to *them* doing something for *me*. I feel I have to be *tolerated*. *They* make sacrifices—in the baseball game, they lost the whole character of their game—and *I* don't get to give anything back to them, have anything to offer, other than accepting their so-called good will.

PH So...if the only payoff for them is *I'm so nice and helpful to my disabled friend* then that just reinforces your social position as—a *loser*; is this what you're saying?

MP Yes. It's a closed loop!

PH Which seems to be based on a desire, out there in the nondisabled world, to *fix it*, or to *make up the difference*, *make it the same* or *nearly as possible the same*. But by this *desire to make* they—we—keep making you a loser, keep you lower in the hierarchy.

MP Yes, I think that must be accurate. It seemed all they knew about was trying to make it the same. From the start there was this emphasis on doing *the same things*. But the older I got the harder it got, the more my differences showed and the less I knew how to handle any of it...

Eventually I was just excused from all phi.-ed. And, when I was, it was a confusing departure for me from how things had been before. I was relieved, of course—and I still don't know whether that was a good thing or not. I guess there's a purpose to trying to have things be the same.



**PH** How so?

**MP** That's what I mean by gaps. There was a whole lot of socializing that went on in phi.-ed. and in the locker-room and all that sort of stuff that I was totally oblivious to in terms of how boys learn to relate to one another. I was not privy to that, and at the same time I was terrified of being privy to it too. Once in junior-high one of the class toughs started threatening me and ridiculing me, and immediately one of the other class toughs came to my aid and took him on and told him to leave me alone. I was at the same time ashamed for being picked on, and for not knowing how to stand up for myself,—being a nerd, being naive, not knowing how boys do that stuff,—and I was also grateful that someone came to my rescue. *Being rescued or a nerd.* I didn't like either option. There was no way to be ok, just ways of lessening being not-ok.

You know, my early childhood play, when I was playing with dollhouses, was creating disasters in which all the little dolls got rescued by the hero father—who was me! That was my play, being a hero...[*Silence.*]

**PH** It seems understandable to me that you would want to find a way to experience yourself as a hero...

And is that where the feeling of being *automatically excluded* first came in—just not having it be open to you to develop the heroic part of yourself in the way that quote-unquote-normal boys get to do, on *their* even playing field?

**MP** Yes. It's a *developmental gap*. And it grew with development, particularly when all the kids started pube-ing.

And then the sexual identity stuff was just one more layer of confusion. I was already feeling a failure as a boy; boys ride bikes, and I couldn't because of my disability; but boys also like sports and I didn't, although I suppose I could have.

At that point, knowledge about being disabled is pretty clear, but knowledge about developing sexual identity isn't; it's so easy to put it all down to the disability. That seemed to be what I did, and what other people did. So in this way my disability protected me from the sissy stuff. People did not pick on me for being a sissy because I was disabled—

**PH** Or if they did, then you were rescued by some—

**MP** Butch kid. Yes.

And it was not only these social gaps, but there were educational gaps also. They began when I first started having my series of surgeries in pre-adolescence. That's when they wanted to do all that stuff, ahead of the growth spurt, and my surgeries were scheduled for the summers, while I was out of school, although some of the surgeries had to be scheduled during school. So for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades I went to orthopedic school at the same time—and all of a sudden I was the big fish in the little pond. I was actually popular! People liked me, and I was with all these other disabled kids. And I went off to



summer camp for crippled children and I was popular.

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**PH** Popular...and *relatively* nondisabled?

**MP** Yes, in comparison to a lot of the other kids I was relatively nondisabled. I was looked on—

**PH** As the Marky Mark of the summer camp—

**MP** Yes. And I loved it! Before that point I felt like such a freak: I really needed a place where I could relax and feel accepted, *part of*. And I was, for as long as I stayed in that group of disabled kids. It really was a godsend for me.

And, as far as being the Marky Mark of the summer camp: yes, I did experience this hierarchy amongst kids with disabilities. Tho' again, the point I want to add here is that one's physical presentation was only one aspect: at the summer camp it felt like there *was* an even playing field because *everyone had similar gaps in their socialization*. My social experiences were completely changed: I was still sort of dorky and awkward around girls, but I had enough friends, and they would say: *Michael, if you want a date for this dance, Cookie is interested*. They set me up. I was queer as a three dollar bill at that point, but I didn't know...So I was set up, and happy that a number of girls were interested. Wow!!

**PH** What about the educational gaps?

**MP** I think I certainly filled in *some* social gaps in orthopedic school and the summer camp, but what happened educationally is that when I got back from orthopedic school I found I had major gaps in all the basics in english and math. Here was the school counselor saying I was so bright, but there was all this basic stuff I didn't know, and I didn't know I had missed, and all of a sudden I was overwhelmed.

All of a sudden I was not understanding what was going on in french or algebra. My grades were going down the tubes—and so I started cheating. [Laughs.] Because I felt I was already getting so much help, I couldn't amit to needing more, ask for more from my folks. I cheated my way through those classes.

**PH** Your being disabled created an educational gap that led to your being a cheat because you felt overwhelmed and fearful of the consequences of drawing yet more extra attention onto yourself as a one-down loser. It makes perfect sense to me that you would cheat, because this at least means *you're doing it by yourself* and not going back to that position—like with the baseball game and walking the dog and being charity-danced—of being *the one-down loser whom people help*.

**MP** Stemming from the disability there were all these educational, developmental and social gaps. You can see *I was simply not functioning with a full deck!* I was naive and needy for recognition, and didn't have a clue as to how to get it. All the other kids were excelling in ways I couldn't: the football team



and other sports stuff.

In grade-school I was very successful in art. I felt all the kids liked me for my ability to draw and paint and all that. Then, maybe around fourth grade this new kid came into class who was a wonderful art student, and all of a sudden I was overshadowed. I was the second best—if not third. David Cross became the artist in residence.

**PH** What was so disappointing about falling back to second or third best?

**MP** I think what I was feeling is a need to be *best at something*. I needed recognition. I think I needed something that *I* could recognize as *being recognized as mine*.

**PH** Was it that you needed to be the art-hero—to have the imprint of heroism recognized in *you*?

**MP** I guess that's it. If I can't be a *romantic* hero...

**PH** So, coming back again to romance and this concept of a hierarchy of physical desirability—how is it exactly you see it? Is it that there's the nondisabled world with Marky Mark at the top, and then there's the disabled world with you somewhere around the top?

**MP** Yes.

**PH** And I guess—do the two worlds overlap somewhere? Where is it you find yourself now in San Francisco in 1996?

**MP** I don't know how much they overlap.

**PH** So are you saying *all* disabled people would come quote-unquote-below all nondisabled people?

**MP** If we're talking the corner of 18th and Castro, I would say yes. Short of...The only people who would be lower than disabled people are people who are mentally ill, street people. I think that, if someone in a wheelchair or on crutches fell flat on their face across the sidewalk, people would go and help them—as opposed to if a street person did it, people would just step over them. But I think people with AIDS are higher than people with disabilities, because they're still considered one of their own by the nondisabled world...

**PH** Higher than mentally ill street people, but not higher than previously nondisabled people now having AIDS...You really really do feel *this* outside, *this* on the margin...Is this what you need people to understand?

**MP** Gee I don't know! Oftentimes I think, *is this just a figment of my imagination, am I making it up, is it my dysfunction?* I'm sure with that statement there would be times when I'd say it's bullshit.

But it may not be too far off right now at *this* point in time of *this* year—with having broken up with Bob and feeling like there were a lot of disability issues that surfaced in that, that I felt no resolution or clarity about; —with being in a state of grief about ending that relationship and looking at how few relation-



ships I've had, and at how those that I've had have never to my satisfaction 13  
dealt with any of the disability stuff. Part of what I'm looking for in a relationship is a *meeting* of that...

**PH** Meeting?

**MP** Because my disability is such an integral part of my life, I want to *have that be met* in the relationship. He has to say, *Michael, I'm really interested in this aspect of you: it's critical and it's crucial; it's integral to who you are and I understand that.* And he has to *participate* in it in the sense that he's going to be affected by it. *It's not as if it's only about me.* It doesn't cut it if he wants me to deal with it so he can side-step it. You see, *this* is what I'm afraid of: remember those reactions we talked about earlier, dismissing the disability—*oh, I don't see it any more;* —or, if someone has seen me on stage with Axis and thinks I've got my shit together with it, and says, *gee isn't Michael wonderful, he's dealing with his disability issues and I find that really attractive about him?* Well, then they get into relationship with me and find out that *they* are being affected by it too and *then* they say, *wait a minute this is not what I bargained for!*

One example with Bob: I think he thought I was really cool about my disability stuff, and one evening I was putting on my shoes, my wonderful orthopedic shoes, and I just started ranting about how much I hate those fucking shoes and all that that stuff has meant to me all my life about normal shoes and orthopedic shoes and having to pay some thousand dollars for something I still think is ugly. And Bob was taken aback like, *gee I've never heard you express any thing like that—I was so surprised that you'd have feelings about your shoes.* And I think he was sort of put off. And I was put off by his being put off.

**PH** You seem kinda angry to me right now: what's up for you as you tell me this?

**MP** I don't know. That's the nature of disability: that stuff is right on the surface, dust off the top and there it is...

What I'm also bringing to it is my own discomfort at being seen by a lover with my own issues and insecurities, my selfconsciousness at being naked with somebody and having the scars on my legs show and the ugly shoes. It's much easier for me to be naked and sensual when we're in bed, but if it means walking around and being naked, then that's another story in terms of being in movement with it. *There's so much going on all the time!* And, if I'm in relationship with someone, I want him to have some concept of how much it is.

**PH** Are you ashamed of your scars, of the shoes?

**MP** Sometimes. Not always. Sometimes.

**PH** What's going on for you right now?

**MP** I'm getting angry. It's the focus on the tip of the iceberg. Yes, I'm ashamed of the scars, the shoes; I also have shame about the way I move, the way my back curves; I also have shame and fear that I might fall flat on my



face when we're out on a date. *And all that physical stuff is just the tip of the iceberg.* A simple thing like having someone back for dinner—reciprocating—is not so simple for me, it's a big deal. And again, *none of these* is an issue that's dealt with and past and then you're beyond it. *[Silence.]*

I go in and out of it, depending on how good I'm feeling about things generally. When I first met Bob, I had the validation that he was not only happy to be seen with me publicly, he was also introducing me to his friends and his family. That was a resounding vote of confidence. Those shoes wouldn't have made any difference then.

**PH** Now up, now down, now you feel this way, now that way, depending on all the circumstances, the whole context.

**MP** Yes—in this way, I think, just like anyone.

**PH** Yes...And sometimes, even with a lover who has given you all this confidence and shown you what he thinks about you in the best ways, sometimes you can just wish that the lights weren't on and that he couldn't see your legs and shoes as brightly as he in fact can. And I guess it's hard to check it out, to ask him, *these scars, these operations, the way my legs are, do you think they're ugly*—when the idea he does is so powerful inside you.

**MP** Those times it makes no difference what his response is. If I'm thinking he's thinking me ugly, I'm gonna think that. That shit can have a life of its own.

My experience is that I don't think I can trust any answer I get to those questions. The real answer has to come in a different way.

**PH** *The real answer.* Is this something you *feel* rather than something you hear him say?

**MP** Yes.

**PH** Michael, I'd like to ask you about that feeling. And right now I'm also curious about the *ugly* part. If something is seen as ugly, is it automatically excluded from being seen as lovable, from being loved? If your lover said, *sometimes I do see the ugliness in your legs—and sometimes I want to make love to them too*—

**MP** I don't like the way this is going: that's saying it is ugly, and I don't want to be found ugly...*[Cries.]*

You see...I need to be *rescued* from what I believe about those parts of my body which *I* think are ugly and which *I* don't love: I need him to love those parts of me which I cannot. And I can't see loving ugliness.

**PH** I can see how tender this place is and I am very moved to be taken here with you. You are literally crying to be rescued...

The rescuing, the real answer...What form does it take? What does it look and feel like? When has it happened?



**MP** You know, in most of my sexual experiences, most of the time my 15 legs are ignored. On very rare occasions they get attention—get kissed, caressed, licked *as if they were beautiful*. And at these times I have been able to believe they are beautiful, and I have become integrated with my own body. Integrated, as opposed to a part being untouchable. The first time it happened to me it just blew me away...

**PH** I can well imagine it did. And I can imagine that, along with all the positive feelings, there were also feelings of bewilderment: as experience has succeeded experience—to begin with, the whole of you was untouchable; then parts of you were untouchable; and now the rescuing integration, *all* of you is touchable and beautiful.

**MP** Yes. And my experience comes from both sides of this. I've been sexual with other disabled people, and I've been fine with their disability. And other disability stuff I'm not so fine with, there are parts of their bodies I have trouble with and I don't necessarily know what that is. And then I do what I don't like being done to me, which is reject the person. And I have a lot of difficulty talking to other people about their bodies; I find it so hard to be upfront and say what I really feel about someone's body *even to myself*, much less to the person who it's about. I think that's one of the reasons it's hard for me to trust the answers I get from other people on the topic.

**PH** It's really tough to have a conversation about. A little while back, when I said, *sometimes I do see the ugliness in your legs—and sometimes I want to make love to them too*, you seemed to hear the bit about ugliness more loudly than the bit about making love to the legs.

**MP** *Most times*, 99% of the time, I think they're ugly and I feel like I'm at odds with myself. How can we possibly consider ourselves ugly and not be at war? *A very few times*, maybe 1%, I can love those parts of myself through the experience of having them loved by someone and I can be beautiful and integrated and I'm in a state of Grace.

**PH** Letting go of being ugly and unlovable and letting in being beautiful, and loved...

**MP** And, you know, with those percentages operating, it isn't always easy to let it in, even when it's there to be let in. And what's coming immediately to mind here is actually an instance in which someone I was with couldn't seem to let it in.

I remember this young black man I was in love with, Robin, who had cerebral palsy. His upper body is very Marky Mark, loads of biceps, pecs, the whole business, just so pretty I just melted—and from the waist down there was a great deal of atrophy and...and I didn't...his legs were atrophied similar to mine. What was nice about it was that I was not turned off by his legs. I could see that they were atrophied, deformed—but they were *his* legs and I found nothing about them to be ugly and I would have liked to have made love to his



legs. It was not even a matter of having to make something right.

But he was not responding. He was the one who was having the problems having me make love to him. All he could do was be passive and acceptant and not reciprocate whatsoever.

**PH** When *both* guys can let it in, it works; when *only one, or neither of you can* there's an area of not responding, as with Robin, and also those times when the men you were being sexual with avoided those parts of you. It seems pretty clear to me, to draw from what you said earlier, that the fear for the person with the different body is that it will be found ugly, it won't or can't metamorphose into beauty; perhaps this was going on for Robin. As for the other guys who liked some parts of you well enough—what was going on for them?

**MP** See, I think I can answer that, because I've been in that position. Like I said, and it's still uncomfortable to say this, but there's body-difference stuff that I walk away from. But what do I do when maybe there's so much about the person that I like and I want that connection?

The instance that has come to mind is one time I met a fat man. I found him to be very personable, and he had a very pleasant face, but I was afraid to go to bed with him because of his weight. I don't know how I managed to do it, but I was able to talk to him about it and he said that he had the same fears about me in relation to my disability. Not so much that he *was* turned off, but that he *feared he might be* and that he was reluctant to sleep with me in the event that he found something displeasing about it. And we ended up having a nice talk about it, and I came to the conclusion that I wasn't so much turned off by his *being* fat as by what do I do *if I find I am turned off*. We ended up having sex and it was ok. By admitting that it was mostly fear...

**PH** So that was a triumph for communication.

**MP** Yes. And what helped me to communicate my fears was processing some of it with myself before talking with him. I was able to tell him that my concern was of *not knowing what I was going to find*, and how to handle that.

**PH** Ah...Is what you're telling us that, when we're in the grip of our Marky Mark fantasies, *we know what we're going to find*. We know there's not going to be any trouble. And, when it comes to the *unknown*, we miss that sense of sureness and want to be a bit more sure. If it's a different-legs issue, maybe we feel like avoiding taking our pants off, or taking his pants off...

**MP** More sure, less fearful. [Silence.]

**PH** Michael, your face has changed, you look more relaxed...How's the iceberg?

**MP** Still there. Momentarily at rest, maybe—and still there.

**Michael Perreault will dance in *Hidden Histories/Visible Differences* at the Cowell Theater in San Francisco on April 26th and 27th; details from Axis Dance Company, 962A—54th Street, Oakland, CA 94608, ph: 510-547 8512**



# REVIEW



Writer Robert Guter, pictured above, who practiced historic preservation in New York and New Jersey for nearly twenty years before moving to San Francisco from New York City, reviews *Body, Remember: a Memoir* by author Kenny Fries.



# REVIEW

## How Much Can The Body Remember?

by Robert Guter

Fate, uncanny coincidence, or simply life in the small world of Gay Arts, Letters and Disability? In retrospect at least, it seems inevitable that I would someday review a book by Kenny Fries.

A decade ago Jean Stewart, who wrote *The Body's Memory*, which I think of as *the* landmark novel about disability, told me about Kenny, and Kenny about me. We were going to meet, but somehow...

After that I read some poems and an occasional essay by Fries and I wondered about the man behind the writer...

And then, just a few months ago, I moved into the same San Francisco neighborhood where many of the scenes in Fries' new memoir, *Body, Remember*, take place...

All of these coincidences may sound pretty unspectacular, but one indelible connector between us remains, the fact that both of us were born with nearly identical nameless, inexplicable and severe deformities of the lower limbs: missing bones, absent or unarticulated joints, "equinus" malformations of the feet, and other indescribable-to-the-layman peculiarities. Despite the fact that my Renowned Surgeon argued successfully *for* amputation, and Kenny's Renowned Surgeon argued *against*, our paths as gay disabled men—or is it disabled gay men?—have been remarkably similar in a remarkable number of ways. The fear, anger, frustration, longing, even the early sights and smells Fries remembers and describes—the tiled glare of the ether-drenched operating theater, fantasies about which missing members might eventually grow, figuring out how to answer the persistent questions of children and rude adults—were mine as well. In these ways *Body, Remember* is a book I might like to have written—and a book I found painful to read.

Our twinship is not complete: Fries' Jewish identity, as well as the sad facts of his father's and brother's abusive behaviors, are crucial threads in his narrative which lie outside my experience. Yet we are connected in what seem to me to be Four Big Themes: *the disabled child's desperate questioning*—"why am I like this?"—at an age when most children haven't even begun to conceptualize Fate; *his place in the family romance*—how his parents and siblings mirror him, and thus help to shape him psychologically, and how *his* situation molds *their* lives; *the knockout punch delivered when gay combines with disabled*—being different twice, a kind of "stigma squared"; and, finally, *the search for completion in romantic love*—



"is he looking at me because I'm an oddity, or because he desires me?"

Each of these four themes represents forces that have shaped my life as well. As I imagine any gay disabled reader of Fries' book will recognize, those forces often take precedence in our lives over the other forces and themes that "normal" men might recognize as ordinary; often, in my experience, the nonordinary forces have pushed ordinariness out of the picture plane entirely. *Yes, being gay and disabled is a big deal.*

By the time I was old enough to be sexual with others, I had begun—at least—to suspect that my gayness was not unique. And Fries reminds me that I am not alone in my struggle with another issue, one that I have always found much more difficult, *my disability and the consequences of its combination with my sexuality*. I could have chosen to remain in the closet but chose instead, little by little, to come out. I have never been able to "pass" as nondisabled—no choice here—nevertheless I have always found myself trying to do just that, as if cruising from the security of what I look like through the window of my car, or refusing to stand up and reveal myself when a handsome man enters the room, might postpone (or even alter) the fact of my appearance.

For me, *Body, Remember* raises all the ghosts of memories that I had just as soon leave locked in the dark. Like the humid August night on my parents' front porch in suburban New Jersey when, against all odds, I found the courage to tell my college roommate (yes, that old cliché) that I was in love with him. More than thirty years later I can still feel, physically, the pain of his reply, which was a simple question: "Do you think you'll ever find a man who'll sleep with you?"

I would like to tell him (not to compete with Fries' body count from the book) that the answer turned out to be *yes, dozens and dozens of men*. However, like Fries, I can only guess at the image of me that some of those men held. Today, how ordinary- or extraordinary-looking the world finds me, how whole or malformed, are questions I still stumble over every time I step out the door.

*Body, Remember* puts these questions up-front, voiced by the persona of Fries the narrator, as well as by the characters that surround him. For this accomplishment Kenny Fries deserves substantial praise, and he has earned my substantial thanks for what reading his memoir and writing this review have given me.

And yet I find I wanted more. Fries' narrator-persona *must* question incessantly, *must* seek to analyze, *must* rail against the Fates. It is his nature as a disabled gay



man. Raising questions is, so far, his destiny; he scores less well on groping for answers. Kenny's partner, an artist, sees the artistic portrayal of Fries' shoes as "important"—but we are left to wonder what this means. As the veteran of a successful thirteen-year partnership with a nondisabled man who, it happens, "likes" men with (as well as without) disabilities, I wanted more from Kenny on this score than his anecdote about the "fetishist" who asked him if he wanted to be humiliated. As Queen Victoria is supposed to have said, "So unlike *our* home life". The highlighting of this anecdote in the book (and in at least one review/interview seen to date in the gay press) will do little to help communication between a man like my partner—who in thirteen years has not once sought to humiliate or hurt or exploit or have power or control over me—and someone like me whom he happens to like.

In such ways, when reading the book, I often felt that Fries understands the soul's causes and effects only as they are filtered through him: that by putting himself squarely at the center of all things he blinds himself to the experience of many people and the meaning and significance of many events around him. Kenny Fries, the writer, seems to experience no epiphanies, no *engagement* with the world, and I, the reader, was sad that this was so.

One symptom, as it seems to me, of Fries' dissociation is in his use of language: I found many of his forays into highflown diction distracting and found myself wishing that, instead of *discerning what transpires*, he could for once just *see what happens*. I compare Fries to myself when I do this, and I catch myself wondering whether these usages betray a defense against feeling more deeply.

Kenny, it's *understandable* that, given the horrific forces to which you and I and other gay men with disabilities have been subjected, we should have developed significant, adaptive defenses against fully feeling their horror. By these we may forget, leaving it to our body to remember. But now these same defenses hobble us as we grope for answers to the questions which shape our lives. As we let them drop, we—you—will have more feelings to share, more generous, seeing-beyond-the-self help to give those of us, disabled and nondisabled, as we struggle to get on with our lives and struggle to love ourselves and each other. Next time around, tell us *even more clearly and passionately* what you have found along the way.

**Body, Remember: a Memoir, by Kenny Fries, Jan. 1997, hardback, Dutton, \$21.95, 224 pp.**

A book signing and reading of Kenny Fries' book, Body Remember: a Memoir, will be held February 1st at 7:30 pm at A Different Light Books located at 489 Castro Street in San Francisco. Admission is free. The event, which is wheelchair accessible, is co-sponsored by Sha'ar Zahav Synagogue.



# THE MAIL POUCH

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... On June 29 I met [another A-T advertiser in MA]... We met again. And again. And again... We've both fallen in love. And it was all because he responded to my personal ad in ABLE-TOGETHER. We first kissed on our third date... We've laughed so hard at times. And we've shared many tender moments... At this point I can't see any reason to renew my personal ad, but please accept my enclosed check as a contribution and a thank you.

*PH, Massachussetts*

*What a wonderful letter you sent us! Very many thanks for your generous donation! We are thrilled to hear that A-T has brought you guys together and send you both our warmest good wishes. And we are so delighted that you have renewed your subscription, because this tells us that, for you guys, falling in love thru' the A-T personals is just the beginning: we hope that, as you grow into your relationship, you will share with us and other A-T readers your experiences and learnings of how a disabled man and a nondisabled man may successfully negotiate relationship.*

... Thank you, your publication has opened me to a whole new world of gay disabled persons [like] me.

*BB, Minnesota*

... Thank you. You are providing a much needed service. I have been an above the knee amputee since July 1994 and never heard of you before... I had searched for a magazine that catered to the disabled...

*JMcP, New York*

... Really enjoyed the editorials in this [Summer, '96] edition

*GP, England*

*Guys, we very greatly appreciate it when you let us know you appreciate us and that you want to be a part of A-T: thank you! We welcome your letters, opinions and articles: A-T is your forum to share and explore your experiences in relation to the issues that are up for us. A special thank you also to those of you who like to send a few extra dollars, or pounds in with your renewal subscriptions: by making this extra effort you send us the message that you recognize our efforts to produce a newsletter that we hope will make a positive difference in all our lives.*

A-T

may

print

extracts

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letters

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writers

will be

identified

by their

initials

and state,

unless we

are advised

to the

contrary.



## Disabled Queer Sexuality

by John R. Killacky

Last May I joined 200,000 other Americans dealing with spinal injuries. After surgery to remove a tumor from my spinal cord, my left side was left totally paralyzed and I had lost all sensation of pain and temperature in my right side. I spent five weeks at the Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Institute of Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis working to regain movement in my left arm and leg, coordination, balance, and strength. Eventually I learned to stand upright and took steps using a leg brace and cane.

I got out of the Rehab. Institute at the end of June, but continued physical therapy all summer and fall. As soon as I was physically stabilized, I tried slowly to integrate myself back into my professional life. On my road to recovery I learned to accept and work with my physical limitations in an inaccessible world and learned how ill-equipped cultural organizations are in dealing with the differently abled. I've found myself referred to in the third person, assumed to be totally helpless, pushed aside in elevators, seated in the back corners of theaters, caught in inaccessible bathrooms, and met with open mouthed pity.

Through this ordeal of recovery, I've also learned a great deal about grace and generosity through the unwavering support of my partner, colleagues, and all those who helped with the emotional and functional challenges of living with a physical disability. Another opportunity has been to reconsider priorities in life as I focus on such ordinary tasks as learning to walk again. Clarity of action and intention have new meaning for me now.

In addition to physical therapy, I worked with rehab. professionals on the complex emotional, social, and psychological issues of coping with disability. My partner and I viewed "training videos" for couples learning to live with spinal injuries, detailing such issues as skin care, bowel program, and sexuality. We found the tapes were as generic as Hallmark cards and irrelevant as to our sexual life. Subsequent searches of existing material nationally revealed that there were no therapeutic disability tapes specifically dealing with gay and lesbian sexuality.

After discussions with the care team, it was proposed that we work together to create tapes dealing with a range of sexuality issues for disabled gays and lesbians. Proposals have been sent out and we should know soon if the project has received funding. Advisors for the project include rehab. specialist Marilyn Thompson, MD, neurologist Soren A. Ryberg, MD, Hannah Rosentein, MD, Joyce Graham, MC, LP, Jim Hanson, MSW, Mark Schuler, PhD, LP, William O'Dowd, PhD, LP, and Lawrence Connolly, MFA, MDi. Videographers Eleanor Savage and Amanda Taylor, who worked together to create *Voicing the Legacy*, a thirty minute video documenting elders in the Twin Cities' lesbian community, have agreed to shoot and help edit the tapes.

However, what is needed now is to create a network of disabled gay men and lesbian women willing to participate in the project and share their stories around sexuality issues. *Please contact me at home: 72 Barbaree Way, Tiburon, Ca. 94920, or through my partner Larry Connolly's e-mail address: [jasonlc@msn.com](mailto:jasonlc@msn.com)*

*John R. Killacky is a curator, writer, filmmaker, and educator.*



# MORE OF YOUR MAIL

...I am writing this letter after answering fifteen ads in A-T and getting fifteen non-responses....Maybe you could write an editorial about non-responses and how the non-responses hurt others.

DD, New York

*It seems to us that nobody likes to send a message that the recipient may find negative or discouraging or rejecting. Whilst many of us want to try to find a good way of saying "thanks, but no", or "thanks, but not right now", it does seem the case that many advertisers prefer the ambiguities of non-responding. The issue of non-response was raised in the letters pages of the January, 1996 A-T, one subscriber making the excellent point that a non-responding advertiser may inadvertently cause his correspondent worry over where a letter containing a photo and personal information about himself may have ended up.*

*We are very sorry to hear of your disappointing experience of the A-T personals and can understand that it may seem inexplicable when contrasted with the happier experience of other subscribers, and with your hopes and expectations upon becoming a subscriber to A-T; we can understand that you are likely to be feeling hurt and rejected and that it is about you, and that this may leave you feeling angry at the advertisers' failures to communicate to you the impact your correspondence had on them, and sad that these men, whose ads attracted you and seemed to speak to you, seem uninterested in you at this time.*

*Another New York subscriber penned these thoughts on the topic of our expectations when cruising the personals:*

...I received [an angry] letter from [a contact through A-T]...who [seemed to be thinking] I hadn't [followed through on an] obligation...[At our original get-together] I [explained that I didn't] have an available place for a meeting. Neither did he. I do now, but doubt I [will] meet with someone who can harbor such hostilities...

[I would ask] people who place ads and people who answer them [to be tactful and understanding] when reaching out...

A-T  
may  
print  
extracts  
from  
letters  
received  
unless  
specifically  
asked  
not to;  
writers  
will be  
identified  
by their  
initials  
and state,  
unless we  
are advised  
to the  
contrary.



BE REALISTIC: Neither submitting nor responding to an ad is an assurance of future bliss. The hardest thing for any two human beings to do is communicate. This can be even more difficult when the expectation of future love-making is involved. You may never even get to that point with the other person for whatever reason. But you may make a friend along the way...

Make your expectations realistic too...The more limitations you place (age, weight...etc.) the more you limit your ability to find Mr. Right.

Be realistic about locations...Not everyone can hop on a plane to visit someone they've just made contact with. You might both want to get together, but if neither one has an available place for a tryst, [it] can't realistically happen. Of course, that's why motel rooms were invented. But [where] limited mobility [is an issue] even a motel room can be a challenge.

Be honest. Nobody should have to deal with something that they were not told about beforehand. [If you have a disability: many A-T advertisers will have a reasonable idea] of how a disability [may affect functioning]. But everything will be a lot easier if you take the time to educate a partner [in advance about how it is for you]...Talking makes it a lot easier to get rid of misunderstandings.

...[Put common sense and good energy into writing your reply. Don't] send someone a letter with only a handful of scribbled lines...[or]...a ten page letter telling about...what acts and positions, and every fantasy...But SOME details are needed, even if it's just to say—"more details to follow, if interested"...

[Be patient.] Not everyone can answer a letter [as soon as] it's received. Not everyone can keep up a correspondence...Sometimes we forget to respond to a letter. There's nothing wrong with writing to ask if everything's okay. Just don't make assumptions if things don't flow like you think they should...

...Have a great New Year!

MV, New York

*We are sorry to hear you received an upsetting and hurtful letter. Thank you for your willingness to explore the experience and share your conclusions with us.*

*As you imply, timing can be key. A-T comes out every three months, and as each issue is on sale for three months, it is very possible that things will have changed for a personals advertiser since he submitted his ad. A lot of life can happen in such a period—your own example was changes in the practicalities of meeting.*

*Since submitting his ad, an advertiser may have gotten interested in someone else and be in the process of exploring that connection. And it could be possible that he is not yet so confident of the present connection that he wants to send a new responder a "thanks, but no" reply—he may yet want to dig out that later letter and send a reply beginning: "Sorry it's taken me so long to get back to you".*

*Max, you suggest you might have gotten back to your correspondent, if he hadn't preempted this by sending you the angry follow-up: in this way you teach us that if we have realistic expectations we may be able to set aside frustrated initial hopes—and settle back to wait for a possible pleasant surprise!*



## A GUIDE TO CONTACT AD LISTINGS

**How to reply to a coded ad:** put your letter in an envelope, seal it, and put the A-T code # of the advertiser you are replying to in the top right corner of the envelope; if you know your A-T code #, put this (or your initials) in the bottom left corner; do not fix a sender's-address label to this envelope; put this envelope, together with the correct reimbursement for forwarding, please—see below—in another envelope, seal, address to A-T and mail! You may respond to as many coded ads as you wish, and put all the numbered envelopes in one larger envelope to mail to us.

We believe the best kind of ad is the one that gives the reader the most accurate idea of who you are. We therefore encourage ad length (but reserve the right to edit) and accurate statements of personal statistics such as age and weight. You should bear in mind that A-T readers are likely to want to know whether you are disabled or nondisabled, so please include this information, and try to be as detailed as you can about yourself and your way of being and presentation in the world, because it very greatly helps both you and potential responders if they can gain a reasonable picture of you from the ad. *We encourage changes and updates to ads!*

Although ABLE-TOGETHER strives without judgment to encourage honest self-expression we are aware that many of our subscribers may feel depersonalized and objectified in response to certain personal contact ad material. Because of the importance A-T attaches to the avoidance of objectification and depersonalization in interpersonal relations we may edit personal contact ads submitted to us which seem to us to contain sexually overly explicit or overly fetishistic material.

**DEADLINES:** ABLE-TOGETHER needs your ad copy by **25th March for Spring issue, 18th June for Summer issue, 11th September for Fall issue and 5th December for Winter issue.** New, renewed or changed ads reaching us after these dates are not guaranteed to appear in the issue published at the end of that month. We will try, but no promises...

ABLE-TOGETHER does not seek to profit from forwarding replies to coded contact ads but we do ask that you send us full reimbursement for our postage costs in forwarding your reply to the advertiser:

- for US responses to US advertisers, this is a 32ct stamp;
- for US responses to Canada, this is a 46ct stamp;
- for US responses to advertisers *outside* the US or Canada, this is a \$1 stamp;
- for overseas responders who do not have US stamps and wish to send a \$1 bill, this will cover *three* replies within the US or *two* to Canada or *one* elsewhere;  
*but please note that these rates are for minimum-weight letters; heavier items cost more to send, and when in doubt, please check at the post office.*

Remittance of forwarding costs may be made to ABLE-TOGETHER in valid US postage stamps, in currency, or by personal check or money order; our bank also takes personal checks (but *not* money orders) in foreign currency drawn on overseas banks. All payments are sent to us at sender's risk. ABLE-TOGETHER does not accept responsibility for materials sent to us to be forwarded, and we reserve the right to destroy materials not accompanied by adequate reimbursement for forwarding costs.



ADS

CA

PERSONAL CONTACTS INITIATED THROUGH ABLE-TOGETHER CONTACT AD LISTINGS ARE DONE SO ENTIRELY AT THE RISK AND ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED: WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO BE DOING, AND WITH THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE DOING IT WITH; IF YOU DECIDE TO BE SEXUAL WITH SOMEONE YOU ARE VERY STRONGLY URGED FIRST TO CALL YOUR LOCAL AIDS/STD HOTLINE FOR ADVICE.

**SAN DIEGO or ORANGE COUNTY.** POLIO SURVIVOR, independent wheelchair user, 50, 5'3", 110#, brown/blue, lawyer/businessman/investor, semi-retired, self-supporting, goodlooking, outgoing, Scorpio, non-smoking, occasional drink, HIV...seeking nondisabled or disabled friends with compatible descriptions. Honesty, intelligence, sense of humor, self-supporting and sense of responsibility to friends, neighbors, community...world, etc. very important to me. - Also seeking new life partner but willing to wait for the guy that can laugh easily and make me feel warm and comfortable inside and out. He is comfortable with the concept of monogamous commitment to a mutually satisfying growth-oriented relationship based on trust and shared experiences. A special kind of guy who knows how to love another and is not ashamed about his sexual orientation or his physical attraction to polio-disabled hunks like me. Jarrod - 1278 Glenneyre, Suite 100, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 or **E-mail: RivEagle@aol.com**

**SAN FRANCISCO.** Humpy GWM bear wants lifetime partner for ongoing bareass rasslin' sessions. Above-knee amputee, 45, 5'6", br/br, 36" waist, 160lbs, HIV-, looking for a non-smoking, in shape, and outgoing life partner of any race—to age 49 and under 5'10" preferred. I have a resilient spirit, great personality, sense of humor and solid values. Like me, you're affectionate, upbeat, open-minded, bright, expressive, good-hearted, honest, trustworthy and respect spirituality. Some of the things I enjoy include dining out, long talks, massages, the fine arts, cinema, travel and sunsets. Photo appreciated and returned. Let's find harmony together. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #852.*

**CALIFORNIA.** GWM 40, 5'9", 160#, nondisabled, pretty open-minded individual with a lot of love to share with someone. Would like to meet a cute young man, under 30 preferred, with/without disability, who is interested in a nurturing, loving, committed relationship. I'm HIV-neg., like naked cuddling, romance, being together, sappy movies, good friends and having a home together. I like my work and my home. I don't smoke or do drugs. Please reply with photo and I'll send you mine in return. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1485*

**CALIFORNIA.** I'm a middle-aged GWM, 5'10", 200 lbs., using crutches occasionally when my hip flares up. I am seeking a young man, disabled or nondisabled, preferably under 40, for



**ABLE-TOGETHER, POB 460053, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146, USA**

**Voice Mail—US: 415-522 9091/e-mail: [blaine@well.com](mailto:blaine@well.com)/Voice Mail—UK: 01453 832782**

ABLE-TOGETHER is a quarterly international newsletter for bisexual and gay men with and without disabilities; A-T's Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues are published out of San Francisco, California during the months of January, April, July and October. A-T has postal subscribers across the US and in Canada, the UK and elsewhere across the globe. You can buy A-T at certain gay/progressive bookstores across the US, and also in the UK.

ABLE-TOGETHER is co-edited by Michael Maurillo, who is spinal-injured, and Peter Hegedus, who is nondisabled; A-T seeks to bridge the gaps which our socialization has created from a perspective emphasizing the generation of positive feeling and experience in men's relationships.

ABLE-TOGETHER's illustrated fifty-two page Winter, 1997 issue includes a review, by fellow disabled gay writer Robert Guter, of Kenny Fries' just-published memoir, *Body, Remember*, together with the concluding part of a major interview, by Peter Hegedus, of polio survivor Michael Perreault; a quarter of the more than one hundred subscribers' personal contact ads listed are from advertisers based within the UK or elsewhere in Europe. A-T is its subscribers—who contribute letters, poems, opinions, artwork, articles and bulletin-board notices to the newsletter, as well as help with outreach locally.

ABLE-TOGETHER applies all subscription, sales and donation revenues to production, advertising and outreach costs. A-T's international outreach program includes sending informational materials and flyers to independent living centers and to the disabled students' programs and the gay and lesbian students' associations of colleges in the US and Canada; A-T advertises in US regional gay newspapers and nationally in publications such as *New Mobility*, *The Disability Rag* and *Advocate Classifieds*; in Canada in *Disability Today*; and in the newsletter of the Spinal Injuries Association and in *Disability Now* and *Gay Times* in the UK. A-T's home on the Internet is: <http://www.well.com/user/blaine/abletog.html>

ABLE-TOGETHER full-year subscribers *only* may submit a personal contact ad for publication for as long as the subscription is active; changes and updates to ads are encouraged; ads may be box#-coded for privacy; A-T does not profit from forwarding replies to coded ads, but we ask that responders reimburse our forwarding postage costs; we reserve the right to edit ads for length and content.

ABLE-TOGETHER costs **\$30US/£22/C\$42/A\$44** for a full year's subscription of four issues, inclusive of a personal contact ad listing at no additional charge; this is reduced to **\$15US/£12/C\$21/A\$25** for men with low incomes; or you may purchase a single issue for **\$5US/£4/C\$7/A\$8** and then "upgrade" to a full year's subscription. Payment may be made by your personal check drawn in your domestic currency. A-T is posted by airmail to subscribers outside the US.

ABLE-TOGETHER is news: A-T has received mention in *New Mobility*, in the newsletters of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights and of the Boston Information Center for Individuals with Disabilities, as well as in local gay newspapers such as the *San Francisco Bay Area Reporter* and *All Points North* in the UK. Organizational subscribers include the World Institute on Disability in Oakland, California, the Homodok Archives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society in San Francisco, California.



## SUBSCRIPTION AND PERSONAL CONTACT AD REQUEST INFORMATION

When you decide to become a full-year subscriber to A-T you have a choice of starting your subscription with either the **currently available** issue or the **next** issue. Because your ad (if you submit one) will only be published whilst your subscription is active, **this choice affects the number of times your ad can appear!** *This means that if you want your ad to be published four times during your first year with A-T you must specify that you want your subscription to start with the next issue and your subscription payment and ad must be received by us before the deadline.*

**DEADLINES:** ABLE-TOGETHER needs your ad copy by **25th March for Spring issue, 18th June for Summer issue, 11th September for Fall issue and 5th December for Winter issue.** New, renewed or changed ads reaching us after these dates are not guaranteed to appear in the issue published the following month. We will try, but...

**UPGRADES:** If you decide to purchase a single copy of the current issue of A-T for \$5US/£4/C\$7/A\$8 you may within three months upgrade to a full-year subscription by payment of the balance of \$25US/£18/C\$35/A\$36, or \$10US/£8/C\$14/A\$17 for men with low incomes; an upgrade form will be sent to you with your first newsletter.

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to **ABLE-TOGETHER, POB 460053, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146, USA**

### - PERSONAL CONTACT AD REQUEST FORM -

PLEASE PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING AD WHILE MY SUBSCRIPTION REMAINS ACTIVE:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my ad to be: box#-coded uncoded (please check one)  
(we recommend your ad be box#-coded unless you have a P O Box address)

Text of my ad: (include name/address/phone # as you want it to appear in the ad)

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to **ABLE-TOGETHER, POB 460053, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146, USA**

### - SUBSCRIPTION /ORDER FORM -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like a FULL-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION (inclusive of personal ad)

starting with \_\_\_\_\_ the current \_\_\_\_\_ the next issue;

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ \$30US/ £24/ C\$42/ A\$44, or \_\_\_\_\_ \$15US/ £12/ C\$21/ A\$25 low income.

\_\_\_\_ Please send me a SINGLE ISSUE of the newsletter; \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose \$5US/ £4/ C\$7/ A\$8



friendship/romance/possible relationship. My interests include classical music, movies, museums, dining out. *Michael, POB 4054, Berkeley, CA 94704.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Fifty year old GWM with nonphysical disability invites correspondence. I am more or less intelligent, sensitive, affectionate and mature. A-T reader since Summer, '96. *EK, 537 Jones Street #8778, San Francisco, CA 94102.*

**CALIFORNIA.** My name is David. I am a GWM 43, 5'7", 185lbs, short brown greying hair, hazel eyes, average to goodlooking. I have some sort of neuralgia and have been diagnosed with atypical facial pain. I enjoy b/w vintage film and like to mountain bike to nearest coffee shop. Feeling kinda lonely and would enjoy the companionship of another male to age abt. 53. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1430.*

**CALIFORNIA.** 55 yo BiWM, legally blind. I am 6'2" tall and weigh 240 lbs. Brown turning grey hair with s & p beard and 'stache. I am honest, sincere and very affectionate. I can see what I like but can't drive to see you. Your photo gets mine. *Joe, P.O. Box 14101, Torrance, CA 90503.*

**CALIFORNIA.** BG, 43, 230#, 6'4", in search of friends, and maybe life partner or soul mate. Be honest, sane, sincere and stable. Many consider me a full-hearted nurturer. *Rod. Replies with correct postage please to A-T#1388 or e-mail: aw982@lafn.org.*

**SAN FRANCISCO.** Nondisabled GWM 43, sincere, dark hair, hairy body, blue eyes, 6'1", simple, quiet, honest, non-smoker, no drugs, I work out at the YMCA daily, class A truck driver and college education, love to take long walks, HIV-neg. Looking for same/take bear, disability no preference. *Ph: 415 922 1631 x 345 or replies with correct postage please to A-T #1330.*

**CALIFORNIA.** My name is Robert. I am a 30 year old GWM, 5'5", heavysset. I have epilepsy as well as a learning disability. I am open to hearing from anyone interested - also I feel a particular response for men who are blind. Call me on #209 477 6955 or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #995.*

**I WILL GIVE YOU A GREAT MASSAGE.** I am 59, 6', 180 lbs., with blondish/greying hair and in very good health. I am employed, energetic, and love most types of individuals, regardless of age or handicap. I do appreciate age in a person, for there is so much to learn from those with experience in life. One of my favorite passions is to go into the desert to hot springs for retreats in the summer. I love the solitude, spirituality and beauty of the desert, and the healing qualities of the springs. I have a favorite place where clothing is optional; it is like being in the Garden of Eden. I would like to find someone that would be interested in going with me this summer for a retreat. I have a VW van and can provide transportation if necessary. If you are interested I can provide lots of information

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regarding my retreats and the locations. I will honestly answer any question you ask, and will tell you more about myself. I am interested in all kinds of music, mostly classical, and 'New Age'; Steve Halpern, Aeolia etc... I am interested in the Yoga/Zen concept of living but was raised in Christianity. I love to meditate and I attempt to cultivate an unconditional love for all. I enjoy reading and have eclectic life interests. I am an open, honest, non-judgmental person who is up-front and hides nothing I enjoy listening but make no demands on anyone. If you would like to get out into nature, in total peace and solitude, and lay around in beautiful mineral pools, without television but rather with your own books or music, or your journal or favorite hobby, or just vegetate, then please respond. *Robert W. Rice, 14149 Cates Court, Chowchilla, CA 93610, ph: 209 665 1479.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Visually impaired (legally blind) GWM, 52 years old, 5'8", 160 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, HIV-negative, looking to hear from a nice guy gay black male 21-29 years old. Write *Joseph, POB 912, Concord, CA 94522-0912, ph: 510 676 0356*

**WILSHIRE CENTER.** Do you like to hug, fondle, kiss, caress? Do you seek affection, caring, friendship? I'm one of an open couple seeking additional long term relationships. No smoke, drink, drugs. HIV neg. Like natural health, philosophy, world events. WM 71 yrs, 6', 185#, short brown hair, blue eyes. Lost left leg below the knee in 1995. I walk with a cane. I'm doing fine otherwise. Most people don't realize I have a prosthesis. I don't drive anymore. I'm a happy person with many interests—too many to get all of them done. I started the local chapter of a club for senior men which now has 46 chapters worldwide. (Info on request.) Have been with my partner for many years, but we haven't slept together since 1984 when I was ill and tossed and turned too much. I have been seeing another very dear friend since 1978. I hope you and I can meet and become long term friends as well. *Cal, c/o ONE Inc., POB 19028A, Los Angeles CA 90019.*

**WINE COUNTRY GUY.** GWM 41, 195#, blue/brown, 6'4", pleasant looking, HIV-neg., typical pear shaped partial quad with sensation everywhere but right foot, native Californian, seeking guys 30-50 in the hope of cultivating a long term relationship. Independent



with dry sense of humor, mellow, easy going, extremely sexual with the right guy, affectionate, masculine, employed with a degree in psychology with a focus in human services. Nonsmoker, drive own van, plenty of friends. What I like: cuddling in bed or by a fire with mulled wine, cooking together, gardening together, rides in the country, softie cones, picnics, Chris Isaak, interior renovations, antique-ing, movies, Seinfeld, This Old House, 3rd Rock From The



Sun, Touched By An Angel (I admit it...), board games, family get-togethers, classic/new cars, men and their foibles, camping, Las Vegas, San Francisco, LA, loyalty, honesty, Sunday brunches, eating out at luxurious restaurants (when it happens)...What I'm looking for in a man: Commitment (ARG! The "C" word!), honesty, romance, monogamy (should we get to that point), masculinity, tenderness, strength (both physically and in character), intelligence, career-related success, humor (the key to handling life's lessons), lots of energy, healthy sex drive, and open-mindedness. Will you be the Man in my life? Write if intrigued: your photo gets mine. *Corey Rogers, 6056 Della Court, Rohnert Park, CA 94928*, or, better yet, e-mail me at: **cjrorgers@pacbell.net**

**SAN FRANCISCO.** Outgoing, energetic, nondisabled man, 36, 5'11", 175#, who enjoys adventure, romance, keeping busy and quiet times, nature and city life, friendship, would like to correspond with and meet disabled man who shares an active mind and a love of life. I'm a health professional, enjoy travel, communication, and look forward to talking. *Steven, 4010 19th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114*, or ph: (415) 621 8208.

**CALIFORNIA.** Sexy, disabled GWM seeks friendship and fun with other men, abled or disabled. I'm 32, 5'7", 140 lbs, HIV neg., dark brown hair and eyes. I walk with crutches and have limited use of my hands. I'm into movies, travel, computers and reading. Please be attractive, friendly, HIV neg., and not heavy into drugs/drink. I would most like to hear from men my age and younger but that is not an absolute. Photo appreciated and will get mine. Blaine. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #013.*

**PARALYMPIAN SOUGHT.** I'm a very young looking 43 year old GWM, nondisabled, boy-next-door type, 5'8", 150#, brown hair, hazel eyes, skater's body, nice tan, great smile and a warm heart. I've always seen beauty in physical difference and long been attracted to men with amputations; and more recently I have become truly admiring of the sportsmen amongst you. I'd love to hear from any man who's willing to show me around the track. Ok, so you didn't make the Olympic team...Call me anyway - let's do lunch. *Gary, P.O. Box 620081, San Diego CA 92102* or e-mail: **jjgary@aol.com**.

**CALIFORNIA.** I am a mature, handsome, caring law student in a wheelchair with Cerebral Palsy. I'm 46, with brown hair and eyes, tanned complexion, and told I look like Al Pacino. I would like to share my life with a young (18-30ish) able-aware, sincere, caring, spiritual, preferably Christian guy with a big heart who wants, spontaneously and reciprocally, fully to give and receive abundant, appreciative, balanced and supporting love. Please be fun, adventurous, courageous, afraid of nothing - perhaps having had a near-death experience - and willing to relocate. I enjoy traveling, sight-seeing, movies, theater, music including opera and ballet, museums, art galleries, parks, the beach, dining out, and doing whatever is exciting,

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rejuvenating, invigorating, exotic, and stretching to a person's fullest potential. I also meditate and pray. I am very romantic and imagine being with my lover along the beach and in the moonlight and over a candle-lit dinner; my hope is for a lifetime's relationship of deeply passionate, invigorating sharing at every level, heart to heart, soul to soul, spirit to spirit and body to body. If you have a heart full of love and love yourself, then you're my man. *Eddie, POB 4607, Berkeley, CA 94704, fax: 510 841 2980 or e-mail: Nucleus@best.com*

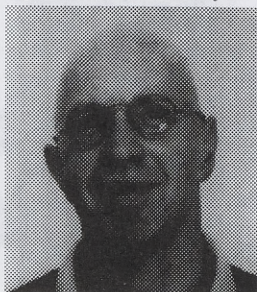
**SAN DIEGO Artist/Actor**, humanist, extremely active, C 6-7 quadriplegic, 40 something, creative (in and out of bed), politically involved (organized protests during the GOP convention), presently creating art 4 San Diego's largest gay rag, and starring in pilot 4 local PBS station...seeking intelligent, creative, physically fit male as friend, model, playmate...whatever develops. Nondisabled preferred, all welcome. *Allen. Box 3524, La Mesa, CA 91941, or ph: 619-697 1806.*

**GAY NAVY VETERAN.** Disabled gay Navy veteran wishes to correspond with penpals from all over the world—you won't be disappointed! Write today! *Robert C. Healy, 1086 Post Street #309, San Francisco, CA 94109, telephone: (415) 921 8950.*



**CALIFORNIA.** I am 50 years old, but look early 30's, blue, blond, thin build, polio survivor with spinal fusions. Have good sense of humor. Do not get out much. Enjoy video movies, evenings at home. Would like to converse/meet with others between 30 and 45 for friendship. Looks not important. *Richard. Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1361.*

**PLACE IN THE SUN.** Fair-complected, ethnically Jewish male, healthy, attractive and athletic—even cute—46 year old relocatable professional, a hairy, muscular 5'10"/160# with nice chest and arms, bald/shaved & clean shaven/occasional blond goatee. Nondisabled—and impacted by disability and wanting better to understand. Drug- and smoke-free, drink a little. I am warm, caring, decent, very interested in people, stable, intelligent, honest and straightforward, communicate well, very open to hearing from a disabled or nondisabled man with a view to good connection...intimate friendship...travel...dating...hanging out. LTR history: I was widowed in 1995 after nearly thirteen years...LTR objective: sharing place in the sun. I like talking on the phone, cooking, laughing, hanging out, eating together, psychology, Seinfeld, Simpsons, fringe theater, movies, working out, and much exchange of touch, affection, body contact. I am drawn to men who are outgoing, empathic, affectionate, adventurous, athletic-within-ability. San Francisco/UK/beyond. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #252.*





**CALIFORNIA.** GWM 49, 5'6", 145#, blu, br, 'stache, 18 years hemiplegic wheelchair user, eager for So. Ca. friends, nondisabled or not. I am a former hotel manager and now do AIDS volunteer work. I enjoy life, lite-health cooking, dining, conversations, classical music, opera, movies, theaters, museums, etc...Drink wine but not into bars or scene, do not smoke or do drugs. Be discreet. *Tom, 1525 Appleton #302, Long Beach, CA 90802, ph: 310 436 2880.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Hi guys, my name is Ray. I'm a GWM senior, nondisabled, 6', 195 lbs., 74 yrs. old, and living proof that the fun doesn't end at 65. I am disability-aware from caring for my paraplegic mother. We moved to CA in 1952 from Chicago and never regretted it. After she passed away I became a workaholic, but since retirement I have learned to relax in my Palm Springs hills house. All I need is that special person to help make the house a home. I don't drink or smoke and I have a great sense of humor. I enjoy photography, Western art, the arts, and music, from classical to country. I value friendships but desire someone of like mind to settle down in a loving, monogamous relationship. I would like to keep my house and prefer a warm climate but am not opposed to relocating, as love knows no boundaries. Just be honest and caring, for it's what's in our hearts that counts. Look forward to hearing from you all and I promise to answer all and exchange photos. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1036.*

**N. CALIFORNIA - EAST BAY AREA.** It would be nice to meet a man who enjoys affectionate touches in the dark of a movie theater, finds pleasure in intimate conversations over dinner, discovers joy in simply walking through the park, feels excitement watching an athletic event or dance performance; I am a 6' tall, 200 lb. 43 y/o, quadriplegic BiWM who has blue eyes, brn hair and a short beard. I'm also easy going, open-minded, with a good sense of humor. My hope is that you are safe, sane, gentle, caring, while at the same time one who would enjoy a negotiated dominant role in our relationship. If you think this has possibilities, feel free to make contact. Be well. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #746.*

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.** Charlie, GWM, 53, 6', 170 lbs., mild heart condition. Recent arrival from East Coast who enjoys conversation, movies, travel, quiet times with good friends. Seeking similar for fun and good times. Be sincere. No games, no drugs. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1455.*

**SACRAMENTO.** 44 y.o. WM, 5'8", 175 lbs., new to gay scene. I suffer with MS, but try not to let it get in my way. I am just coming out of a 24 year marriage and I am learning as I go along. I am looking for a friendly, romantic, caring person. Looking forward to hearing from you. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1444.*

**FLORIDA.** Retired GWM, former social worker, teacher, correctional and parole officer and ordained Baptist clergyman with personal experience that GAY AND GOD GO GOOD TOGETHER!

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I'm a full time RV-er, winter in South Florida and hope to travel widely 7-8 months a year if I can find a truly gay life partner to join me. I am 66 years old, though look younger, 5'11", 215 pounds, dark blond hair, clean shaven, blue eyes, wear glasses, HIV-neg., mildly disabled due to diabetes and three heart attacks last summer. Have been living alone the last three years since my 27 year old lover for seven years decided to take on the straight life. Am sincerely looking for a younger truly gay guy who wants and needs the security and love a LTR with a man my age will give him. Live and travel in a 32' travel trailer with a/c and satellite tv and a collection of over 2000 movies & videos. Your photo gets mine. Eventual spousal relationship preferred, but visitors welcome, ages 18-?? *Ken Debus, POB 63, Lake Harbor, FL 33459.*

**FLORIDA.** GWM 36, 6 ft, blond hair, blue eyes, fair skin, live in SE Florida. Easy going with good outlook on life. Professional and enjoy meeting people. I am challenged with ejaculatory failure. No other disability. Would like to correspond with others in the same boat as I am. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1319*

**FLORIDA.** GWM 34, 5'9", 165 lbs, black hair, green eyes, muscular and very hairy. I'm doing my PhD in Psychology. Some of my hobbies are traveling, fine arts (painting, sculpting), poetry and caving. I have mild cerebral palsy. I'm looking for an intelligent and warm hearted guy who would like to establish a long-term, monogamous relationship. Someone who is not afraid to express his feelings and who is sensitive. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1304.*

**FLORIDA.** Nondisabled male 38, 5'10", 160lbs—like to travel, sports, quiet times and the occasional beer. Speak english, french and working on spanish. I'd like to correspond with a male who is spinal-injured, or amputee. New friends are always welcome and I'd enjoy pen-paling with you. I offer friendship—and, if we both come to want it, a stable home and caring partnership. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #226.*

**FLORIDA.** GWM 40, 6', 190lbs, br/br, mustache, nondisabled, attracted to and in search of GWM 20-48 disabled who walks with crutches. I enjoy dinners, movies, videos, the beach, amusement parks, quiet times and cuddling with that special person. I am honest, caring, trustworthy, very affectionate, loving and respectful. Write or call anytime—and please send photo if you can. *Michael Kirmard, 2974 Wildhorse Road, Orlando, FL 32822, ph: (407) 249 0574.*

**TAMPA, FL METRO AREA.** GWM 48, nondisabled, 6', hazel eyes, auburn/graying hair, stocky build, very well educated. I enjoy cultural and historical activities, museums and travel. I am a non-smoker, light drinker, no drugs! Good personality—honest, caring, trustworthy and discreet. I am looking for similar qualities in a man older than myself, someone loving and respectful, wheelchair/crutches/polio a plus. Will exchange photos. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #871, or ph: 813 685 2544 before 10 pm weekdays, after 9.30 am weekends.*



**GEORGIA.** GWM 52, brown, blue, have polio of right leg, walk with a limp, cane and an attitude; interests in leather (top) and feet; orally sexual only and love to play all night long. I am looking for a younger man, construction or business type, no jocks. I am retired on a fixed income, but will welcome anyone coming to Atlanta. I am up very late at night and please call me on *ph.* (770) 787 5864 or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #091.*

**CHICAGO.** GWM 29, 6'1", 210, blond, nondisabled. Love reading, movies, music, and British television. I am seeking an independent, sincere GWM, 25-35, with a sense of humor, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Peter. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #930.*

**EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS.**

Polynesian/German Gay Male. 34, 185 lbs., 5'10", alcohol/drug free. Major Depression diagnosis that's under control with medication. I receive SSDI. Animal lover - I have two cats. I like bike riding and pen-paling. Shy to begin with. I plan to relocate to a state that has a mild winter. Photo appreciated. Dana Andrew. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1308.*



**CHICAGO/LAKEVIEW.** 40-ish nondisabled GWM, NS/ND, HIV-neg., 5'8", 200lbs. (oops—on diet). Seeks GWM under 40, physically challenged, for close encounters, perhaps leading to LTR. I have a good sense of humor, am intelligent, educated, former well known bar owner. Jim, PO Box 14705, Chicago, IL 60614-0705, or voice-mail: 773-549 9830.

**MARYLAND.** GWM, mature, hairy, 6ft, blue/brown-gray, 185/190lbs. Life-long attraction to GMs with one leg shorter than the other or club foot or limp. I am truthful, loving, monogamous and seek same in mate for a permanent relationship. I like antiques, classical music & opera, cooking, travel, loving home in beautiful environment. My handicap is a short penis with small, mis-mated balls. Hope that our handicaps can be combined for mutual deep love and understanding. Please write to: John, 1110 Fidler Lane #801, Silver Spring, MD 20910, *ph.* (301) 589 1873.

**MASSACHUSETTS.** I am a professor of biology but I have broad interests ranging from the theater and arts to gardening and sports cars. I enjoy stimulating conversation as well as the quiet beaches along Cape Cod. As an avid naturist I am a member of GNI and I frequent Herring Cove, Rock River (Vermont) and Solomon Beach (St. John, USVI) as well as the gatherings in Pennsylvania. I'm 55, 5'11", 145 lbs, HIV- and very healthy. I have light brown hair, brown eyes and a trim beard. I have been told that I am good-looking. My right arm was amputated at the elbow in a car accident when I was 23. I

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**ADS****MA-MT**

work out with weights 3 times a week and take great pride in my hard body and 30 inch waist. I have a warm and affectionate nature and am very sexual. I am looking for a nondisabled man with a similar nature who appreciates someone who is unique in appearance, and who shares my interests in health and fitness. Drop me a note. *Ted, POB 1175, N. Eastham, MA 02651 or e-mail: Tedfil@aol.com*

**MASSACHUSETTS.** Do your dreams and ambitions sometimes present themselves in visions or pictures that you would like to see realized in a drawing? Nondisabled artist/teacher living in Boston, thoughtful, sensitive GWM 56, interested to feel into the experience of, get to know men with disabilities through drawing you, would welcome your challenge! Send me a description, a snapshot or magazine clipping with a suggestion and I'll send in return an interpretive drawing as well as a letter telling you more about myself. *Hal. Replies with correct postage please to A-T #368.*

**MINNESOTA.** GWM 34, nondisabled, 6' 7 1/2", 200#, brown hair, balding, looking for friends, pen-pals. I'm attracted to men with disabilities. I'm lonely, and no longer wish to be alone. I have a lot of love to give, I'm a warm, compassionate, caring guy. I don't smoke or do drugs, and I am a light drinker. I'm Catholic. My hobbies include the great outdoors, fishing, camping, collecting antiques, shopping, movies, reading, movies, sex—and I'm always open to new adventures. Your photo and number get mine. I'll answer all mail. Take care brothers, and peace. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #589*



**MINNESOTA.** GWM 50, 5'10", 180#, br/hz, looking for life partner with whom to share mutual achievements, interests and lifestyle amenities. I'm a successful professional post-polio wheelchair user in a north central community, very loving, very committed in relationships, open minded and with few hangups. I'm interested in a GWM 35-45, currently abled, HIV-, secure, together, with a great sense of humor, affectionate, and who is successful in his life goals. Interest in outdoor as well as indoor life a plus. Sincere letters will receive replies (photo nice but not initially necessary). *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #791.*

**MINNESOTA.** Attractive, bearded, red-haired, furry Minnesota bear. Looking for a few friends, plus that 1 special guy, to correspond with, or to meet. I am disabled from a car accident and use a cane to walk. *Bob Barr, 180 Wayzata Street #507, St. Paul, MN 55117 or e-mail: BBarr65085@aol.com*

**MONTANA.** Attractive GWM 30. 10 years ago I was on the back of Woody's motorcycle not wearing a helmet cuz it would mess up my do cuz I had a modeling job early the next morning. Woody wasn't hurt cuz he had a helmet on, but that's the trouble of being so damned vain. I was in a hospital bed for six months with a coma, then

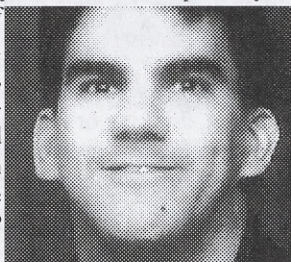


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moved in an airplane to a hospital in Montana. The drunk driver thought he would drive home but got five years in the state prison, which he already served. He couldn't even remember the state he was in. He forced me into a state that I will not forget all of my life. Thank God my mother was there in my room cuz the doctors were going to unplug me from my life support system. But she said, "Hell No! He formed a kiss to me every night, he is still alive but not here with us." I have to thank my mom for that. No scars to my face, thank God for that. Plus I am looking for a hairy chested man, something to hold onto during the throes of passion. I can make do without a hairy chest, but that is a plus. Someone who doesn't have a problem being seen with a man who doesn't talk, and walks with a slight limp. If you are the one then write to me. Oh I am getting ahead of myself, first let me tell you who I am. I am on the Lambda board at the University here in town and I am the past President of the Missoula Head Injury Association, past VP of The Coalition of Montanans Concerned with Disabilities, so I know what it is like to be handicapped and to serve our community. I am HIV-, handicapped, alone but never lonely, single, sincere, a novelist, a story-telling performer throughout Montana, a light smoker, and a "mute", ASL user, but I hear everything, so don't whisper around me because I can hear an ant sneeze. And I'm a humorist, if you can't tell. I can't speak with somebody else verbally but with my devices and the use of my hands I can talk up a storm. I like a person for who they are not what they are. This accident forced me to have a much larger heart for all those people around me. I've been known to not notice my handicap because I'm around it all day. I like to watch TV in the evening in the buff and I like hugs and a whole lot more...Be kind and gentle. *Jason Burrell, 708 S 6th St W Apt 3, Missoula MT 59801-3860.*

**NEW JERSEY.** Hi Guys! I'm Jeff, 32, 5'10", 165 lbs. Physically nondisabled but I have an anxiety condition. Receive SSD. I enjoy hugs, affection, touching, holding, watching TV and movies, traveling, gay cultural events/meetings and my cat, Brownie. I am seeking a loving friendship, very possibly a long-term relationship. I am liberal and of Christian beliefs, and prefer you be too. Also prefer you be goodlooking and with a full head of hair and drug-, alcohol- and smoke-free. Hairiness is a big plus. I like men 21-45, caring, very honest, trustworthy, affectionate, sensitive and HIV-neg. Would like to relocate for the right person (hopefully to a warmer climate). Please include recent photo. *Jeff Woerner, POB 7049, Plainfield, NJ 07060-0799.*



**NEW JERSEY.** I am a 54 year old, 225#, hairy, bi-lateral amputee (b/k). My experience includes over 25 years in professional theatre, peer counseling for other disabled men and women, and as an advo-



## ADS

### NJ-NY

cate for independence and equality for the disabled community. I enjoy cuddling, quiet dinners, honesty, sincerity, and pleasant talks with someone who is into the same. No longer into the party scene (we mellow out as we get older, and wiser). An avid bird watcher, and lover of nature, and all animals. I would welcome any communication with someone who is interested. Open to (tho' not necessarily expecting) a relationship that goes beyond talking, and dinners. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1136.*



**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.** Partially disabled, ambulatory, heavy GWM looking for lover. Me: 48, 6', 250 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair, beard, HIV-neg. Like to laugh, cuddle and snuggle. Like books, bookstores, classical music, restaurants, movies. You: GWM 35-50, slim to muscular, with similar likes. Letter and photo get mine. Be strong for me. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #613.*

**NY/NJ/CT.** GWM 38, 6'6", 225#, dark blond/blue, spinal cord injured (SCI) using wheelchair. Personally, I'd like to meet more handsome SCI men in the 21-35 age range. Might also want to create a sexual/support/friendship/dating group for SCI guys only. Because we know how it feels—and doesn't feel. *Ed Gallagher, 60 Union Ave. #2-BB, New Rochelle, NY 10801.*

**NEW YORK.** 47 yo WM, physician, nondisabled except for loss of vision in left eye since car accident. Primarily interested in hearing from an amputee guy (my first lover had this disability) for friendship and/or...I love to share New York with visitors; I enjoy opera, theater, travel, singing with NYC Gay Men's Chorus. Give a call if you're in the Big Apple! *Michael B. Gehl, 95 Horatio Street #706, New York, NY 10014, telephone: (212) 255 4140.*

**NEW YORK CITY.** GWM late 30's, C5-6 quad. Interests include theatre (the field in which I work), music of many kinds, reading, watching tennis, going to the movies, etc. Bright, aware, good sense of humor, good listener and not a bad talker. I used to travel but wasn't athletic/outdoorsy even in my first life. I am interested in hearing from anyone who finds this thumbnail sketch appealing/provocative and wants to know more or even maybe meet for a cuppa coffee, a Diet Coke or a glass of wine. I take mine with a straw. I have no rules about smoking, drinking or HIV status—I'm not your mother. Please send a 'phone number; I'm really lazy about typing but I love talking on the 'phone. *Andy Zerman, 300 E. 75th Street #15-O, New York, NY 10021.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM, nondisabled, 38, 185, 6', very handsome with Mediterranean good looks, brown hair and eyes, clean shaven, muscular, athletic and gym-fit; looking to meet all types of physically disabled men. I'm HIV-neg. and into very hot safe sex and mutual satisfaction. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #287.*



**YOUR PHOTO GETS MINE.** Goodlooking, well-built, GWM, 47, 5'8", 150 lbs, green eyes, salt and pepper crew cut, into weight-lifting, motorcycles, leather, videos, photos and my very good imagination! Am attracted to, and would love to hear from men with one or more amputations. Looking for correspondence and maybe more. Any takers? *Alan Johnson, 487 East Main Street #158, Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0110.*

**AMPUTEE LAK...ISO AMPUTEES & NONDISABLED.** Hot, hairy, bearded bear—very healthy HIV+, 6'2", blue eyes, white/grey hair, 160 lbs. but look 190 lbs. (30 lb. leg missing), 54 year old Scorpio, seeks other hot bears over 40 to play with. No cigarettes. I am handicapped when standing but when sitting or lying down there is no handicap, just one leg less to get in one's way. *Mac Parland, 305 West 28th Street, NYC, 10001 or e-mail: MACBEAR237aol. com*

**NEW YORK.** Able-bodied GWM searching for disabled and nondisabled contacts for good conversation (by phone or letter), possible meeting and sharing mutual feelings. I am 42 years old, 5'7", dark hair, blue eyes, a professional, very preppy in appearance and dress. I am hearing impaired and wear hearing aids—but they only help to make communication better! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #264.*

**NEW YORK.** Goodlooking GWM 39, nondisabled. I work in the arts and travel frequently. I am looking for disabled male friends for fun and whatever that may lead to. Guys ages 20-50—perhaps with wheelchair, braces, post-polio—all welcomed. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #384.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM, 40, looks much younger, 5'6", 150#, br/br, Architectural Barrier Consultant, handsome, deaf (ASL), quadriplegic—caused by diving accident; look like paraplegic; healthy, ex-ski instructor/racer. Very active person outdoors: wheelchair racquetball, weightlifting, bowling, travel, hand cycling, swimming, Hillside campground (all-male campground—fantastic!), also like indoor tropical trees, and love my dog (Silly Bear). Horny & get really hard! Would like to meet disabled or non-disabled. Please write with photo. *Billy Searles, HCl Box 10, Chestertown, NY 12817.*



**NEW YORK.** GWM, 43, 5'11", 155 lbs, good youthful muscular looks, swimmer's body, brown hair, hazel eyes, multilingual, nondisabled; interested in travel, reading, music from opera to house, and cooking; seeking disabled friend 25-45—especially if you are Arab, Indian or Latino. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #278.*

**NEW YORK.** Attractive, nondisabled disability-aware w/m Daddy Bear, 47 yrs. old, 6', 260 lbs, long grey-brown hair, beard and moustache, pierced nipples, hairy body, and the imagination to go beyond



## ADS

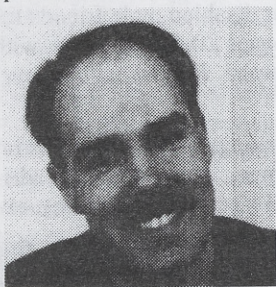
### NY-PA

a partner's physical limitations. Long time disability activist with an interest in meeting men with a wide range of disabilities/differences. My interests include writing, theatre, costume design, crafts, music (Broadway to Bach, but little Rock). Also have long list of fetishes and kinks - but this need not preclude affection and friendship. I am not looking for a permanent relationship, just good buddies to share fantasies and realities with. Write or call *Max E. Verga, 141 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238, ph: (718) 852 1960.*

**NEW YORK CITY.** 46 year old professional, disabled, gay, Hispanic man seeking romance and friendship. 5'4", 160 lbs., cerebral palsy but able to walk. Non-smoker a must. Enjoy movies, computers, plays, going out to dinner, and sophisticated conversation. I look forward to hearing from you. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1265.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM 47, 5'11", 170 lbs, HIV-neg, non-smoker, with very slight cerebral palsy. I'm looking for a guy with/without a disability, preferred age range 37-47. After work I like performing arts, concerts, ballets, opera, lectures, etc. I want to meet the right guy to fill the void in my life. Send phone/photo to: *Doug, POB 275, Bronx, NY 10461.*

**NORTH DAKOTA.** Walt here, and I'm lost out on the Dakota prairie. I was born here in 1952, but escaped in 1970 and went to college, first in LA then Seattle. A Christian producer from Hollywood heard my dulcimer voice, and I spent most of the 1970s on stage and running all over the world. My MS surfaced while I was on the road in Europe back in 1973. After a year off, touring resumed until health said "no more." Following careers from graphics designer to public relations, I ended up back in ND. Currently, health keeps me



fairly sedentary, though I remain active in politics and disability issues. And I write; reviews of local drama productions grace the local rag, and a third book, a commentary on disability, awaits publication. When occasionally not in the wheelchair, I stand at 5'9" and tip the scale at 155-ish. I now sport a salt and pepper, VERY sparse crew cut and a trimmed stache. Despite growing up in an evangelical-fundamentalist home, my spiritual journey has taken me elsewhere. Interests EXCLUDE dope, tobacco, too much booze, and "political correctness"; interests INCLUDE globe trotting, politics, music from opera to Elton, spiritual thought, intelligent conversation and meeting someone of like mind. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1295 or E-mail: wdudley@dickinson.ctctel.com*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** GWM 35 years old with a swimmer's build, 5'9", 125 lbs, with cerebral palsy. I am masculine and cute. I have my college degree in theatre. I already wrote a play and it was staged at Penn State University in the main campus. Believe me -I don't let my disability stand in my way of anything or anybody. I live on my own,





one hour away from Philadelphia and one hour away from New York City. My interests are the theatre, working out at the gym, dancing, going to the beach in the summer, laying in the sun to get a dark tan without a tan line, partying, going to see male dancers, and traveling. Believe me, I do everything and anything. I am looking for someone to be with to enjoy life and to

have a blast with. And...Hey, is there any guy out there who wants to take a vacation? Please contact me if you do. I need a vacation so bad. I was thinking about going to one of the islands, just lay out on the beach in our bikinis or...and look at the view. *Bill Lasch, 1101 Seneca Street #208, Bethlehem, PA 18015, ph: 610 866 4679.*

**LAST GASP?** 5'9", 175 lb. nondisabled Special-Ed professional in advanced middle-youth (mid-60's), seeks slim, masculine, balanced last-gasp-of-Eros (30-60) of whom I can be proud and who can be proud of me. *Write: Carl, P.O. Box 452, Bartonsville, Pa, 18321.*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** 24 year old GWM seeks persons with disabilities for friendship. I have brown hair and eyes, stand five feet eight inches tall, weigh 110 pounds and wear glasses. I was born with mildly severe Cerebral Palsy which affects my ability to walk, my speech (although I can be understood on the phone), and bladder function. I am ambulatory, but use an electric wheelchair for long distances. Presently I am a college student in my third year at Temple University where I am majoring in Human Resource Administration and eventually plan to attend law school. My hobbies and interests include computers, playing chess, reading, writing, world affairs, and disability-related issues. For the past three years I have been very happily involved in a long term relationship with a man who is abled and is in his forties. Please write or telephone before 10pm eastern standard time *Brian Peaceman, 352 Valley Brook Road, Apt. A-6, Ambler, PA 19002-4341, or e-mail: b583627p@thunder.ocis.temple.edu*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** Nondisabled gay male, 33, wishes to meet disabled or nondisabled gay male(s) for intimate luncheons, travel, cultural events, concerts (country or jazz or rock), torrid steamy overnight or long weekend trips, or a long-term relationship (and preferably all of the above!). Seeking friends is a given, and this 5'10", beefy, hirsute, mustached and short-bearded bear wants to meet a man with the ability to challenge me intellectually AND sexually; a man with a strong sense of his own identity as well as an unquenchable thirst for intense, romantic, one-to-one lovemaking AND a lack of fear of long-term commitment. I know it's a tall order, but what the heck—even if we aren't attracted to each other as potential lovers, one can NEVER have too many good friends! I prefer someone in my age bracket (30 to 40-ish), but I would not turn

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away someone in his 20's, 40's or 50's who possesses the character traits I seek. I would also consider relocating, if the individual in question needs this as part of a commitment - all is negotiable! Are you ready for me? *Evan M. Malin, Fox Chase Station POB 24725, Philadelphia, PA 19111-0725.*

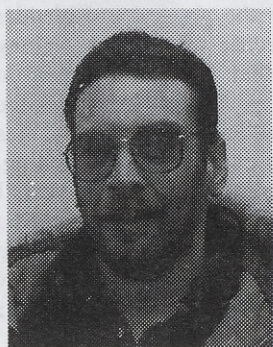
# **IN SEARCH OF NONDISABLED LIFE MATE.**

Non-mainstream GWM, 55, 5'8", 145#, bl/bl, simple, quiet, honest professional, traveled performer and arts educator with very high public profile. I am discreet, masculine, caring, sensitive and daring, a risk-taker. Physical disability due to polio, use wheelchair, but not confined to it, not paralyzed. Disability does not mean dependent.



If you are a 40+ vital, masculine, articulate, loving man with a sense of himself and his sexuality who understands the words *loyalty, commitment, responsibility*, and wants to share the future and a monogamous relationship with another warm and understanding man, then write to *POB 654, Emmaus, PA 18049.*

# **PENNSYLVANIA.**



GWM, 41, sincere, warm, caring, intelligent, humorous, can be shy, Leo, others tell me I'm handsome, dark hair, beard/stache, blue eyes, hairy back-butt-legs, person with a disability, power wheelchair user, HIV-, the fixed-income thing. I seek friendships, mutual support, hugs, kissing, safe times. I do not smoke and don't use drugs. I enjoy music, computer BBS-ing, E-mail, videos, houseplants, volunteering, hanging out on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania & in their botanical garden, and appreciating the great view from my secure 19th floor apartment. *Clark F., 3901 Market Street #1913, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3131 or e-mail: clarkwf@juno.com*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** Good guy, 37, 5'11", 160#, brown hair and eyes, handsome, masculine, trim, solid, nondisabled. Personable, casual, unconventional, active, affectionate. Enjoy music, the outdoors, movies, sports, good food, good conversation, good books, being out and about and hot times. Have positive, sincere, lifelong interest in men with disabilities, particularly survivors of sci, polio, spina bifida, and if you gait on crutches some of the time. Maybe it's the athletic aspect of the upper body, my feelings about intimacy and disability, a longing to discover him whom others may overlook? Now I am embracing my interest in disabled men and seeing where it leads me: I'm more than happy to explore and explain with the



right guy - I want to be an open book. I hope to offer a high degree of awareness, knowledge and sensitivity to a disabled man to see what we can enjoy or build together. Have dated a few men with disabilities and all was ok. If you like what you hear and the above seems to fit, please get in touch. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1428 or ph: 215 473 2886.*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** GWM physician, nondisabled, late fifties, 5'10", 170#, very active mentally and physically, seeks long-term relationship with height-weight-proportionate male over 35. Good looks are a plus, not essential—your decency counts: be down-to-earth and have integrity, a sense of humor, enjoy travel and music. Smoking and moderate alcohol are okay by me, drugs are not. I like guys on crutches—high A/K amputees or guys with a short leg. *Tom. Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1421.*

**RHODE ISLAND.** This 31 year old GWM is looking to meet new friends in or around Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York City. Pen-Pals welcome. Me 5'11", 390# (tons of fun), cute. Photo gets mine, all will be answered. Respond to: *Boxholder, POBox 56, Cumberland, Rhode Island 02864-0056.*

**BIG WHEELS KEEP ON TURNING.** Do you have dreams of having someone who is hard working, loyal, honest, caring, loving, and has no problem being monogamous? I do too! I hold within my heart the hope and dream that, somewhere out there, there is a GWM or BiM 35 to 55, who is sincerely seeking a stable, loving and caring friendship or a one-on-one relationship. I'm a GWM 43, easily passing for early 30's, 125 lbs, bk/br, with mustache. I have a smooth, boyish swimmer's build. Being half Italian and half French I'm an incurable romantic. I love candlelight dinners, movies, the theater, picnics, letting the rain fall on me, spending time out of doors camping and at the beach, and quiet times at home cuddling. I also have a passion for art and music. Now using a wheelchair, I have turned what many see as a handicap into a positive force of strength and many possibilities. So, if you are looking for a man who is real and who will be by your side through the bad as well as the good times, then either write or call - *Stefano, 211 Shannon Street, Gaston, SC 29053-9136, ph (803) 791 1637* - and let's see what happens.

**TEXAS.** GWM 48, 5'9" tall, dark brown hair, blue eyes, with very slight cerebral palsy, 228 pounds, somewhat hairy, seeking male for long lasting relationship. My interests: music, computers, movies/VCR, cooking, spending time with special person. You may, or may not be chubby/hairy. *Bobby Wilson, 4770 Norma Street #105, Fort Worth, TX 76103-3324, ph: 817 535 4500.*

**TEXAS NORTH EAST.** GWM, 58, 5'10", 165#, blond hair, blue eyes, wear glasses, nice-looking, disease-free, gym-going in good shape former forrester/logger living in a small country town; I am masculine, sincere, affectionate and very sexual; I enjoy fishing, hunting,

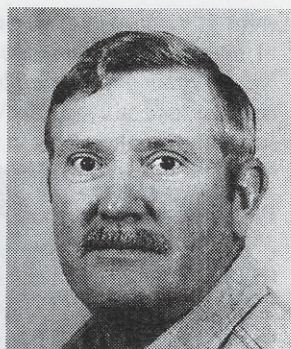
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**ADS**  
**TX-WA**

camping, gardening and more. I am seeking a one-on-one relationship with a younger man, attractive, slender/trim, clean, intelligent, disease-free, affectionate, loyal honest and very sexual, a guy who is honestly looking for an older man. My limitations are a congenital visual problem, impairing my ability to drive in and travel to cities (but not much else) and a work-related back injury which prevents me from doing heavy lifting. I am open to the possibility of relocation. Your photo and 'phone # gets mine. *J. D., POB 221, Royse City, TX 75189.*



**TEXAS.** GWM 49, brown/hazel, 5'1", 131 lbs, HIV neg. I am looking for a safe sexual friendship bringing mutual support, perhaps love, lots of cuddling, safe sex, giggles, nonsense and what - but no wedding rings. I see letters and long distance as for getting acquainted, not penpaling - if something clicks, let's plan to meet asap. I'm handsome, mischievously sexual, fit compassionate, but irreverent, and I try valiantly never to take myself too seriously. I have scoliosis (spine curves to right) and an underdeveloped left shoulder from old polio, also slight, seasonal asthma. I teach at a community college. I like old R&R, big band, jazz & classical music (Boccherini, at this writing), astrology (an amateur student of 20 years), museums, art exhibits, UFO stuff, *Unsolved Mysteries*, *X Files*, antiques, bookstores, conversation, low fat dining, light exercise, Monopoly, Scrabble and old b&w movies. Please, first be a drug & disease free non-smoker, able to travel (but not necessarily all the way to Texas), - sensitive, fun, fit within your ability, not afraid to try things you haven't, politely & gleefully challenging to authority, a polio survivor, an amputee, or even physically normal. Photo gets mine. *Billy Roberts, 1601 Faro Drive #602, Austin, TX 78741, ph: 512 385 8313.*

**VIRGINIA.** GWM, 55, 5'8" 150#, brown/blue; diagnosis - MS (still not definite); symptoms - walking difficulty, bladder and sexual dysfunction; personal interests - history, movies, trains, gay male erotica. I plan to relocate back to Cleveland in a few years and I am especially interested in hearing from A-T subscribers in NE Ohio. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #617.*

**SEATTLE.** Decent, nice-looking, single, nondisabled GWM, short brown hair, brown eyes, short stubbly goatee, 5'7", 150lb., 43—look younger, take good care of myself. An astute and witty but sensitive and caring boy-next-door kind of guy...some say I'm quite a catch. One reason I'm still single: a life-long quest for a special friend that just might be YOU! I've been most attracted to guys who use leg braces to walk. This has been for as long as I can remember—but I didn't know how or where to meet them/him/you until now. *Thanks, A-T, for being a place where I can run this ad!* I see you as a sensitive, mascu-



line G/Bi-M, perhaps polio, spina bifida or sci survivor, single, roughly 35-45, HIV-neg., well-kept and fit within ability. Hopefully you have full sexual function but if not I want to learn what works for us. I enjoy Netsurfing, natural history, movies and music, travel, outdoors. I enjoy going out but prefer a night at home cooking. Respond if you think you're the one. Discretion assured, your photo gets mine. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1036.*

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.** GWM 40, height-weight-proportionate, nondisabled, would like to correspond and meet with male who is an amputee. I am sensitive, spiritual, humorous, independent, laid-back. I enjoy reading, talking, sight-seeing, visiting. I am interested in you for your entire self, with your unique variety of traits, interests and identity. Please write and let's begin to learn about each other. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #308.*

**SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE.** I know there is a great guy out there looking for someone special! I'm *not* looking for Mr. Right Away but I am truly interested in connecting with someone who is good to himself and those that he holds dear. My last relationship was with a partner of eleven years. Three years have passed and I know I'm ready and able to date again. This GWM is 40 yo, 165 lbs, 6'2", brown hair, blue/green eyes. I have two different types of muscular dystrophy. I can't even pronounce it but I have had the disability all my life. It has provided a few challenges but nothing I can't overcome. I work in the computer field and have traveled over 12,000 miles in the last three months with my new job. What preferences do I have? GWM, 25-48, height/weight proportionate, smooth or lightly hairy, with a good sense of humor. It doesn't matter to me if you have a disability, small stature, small cock, or what type of job you have as long as you are happy with what you do. I use an electric wheelchair to get around but work out at the college, travel, theater, dining out, concerts, computers, etc. Give me a call, I would love to talk to you. *Dan, POB 20545, Seattle, WA 98102, ph: (206) 323 6969.*

**SOUTHEAST & MID-ATLANTIC.** Nondisabled GWM, 24 years old, 6', 195lbs, in search of disabled male for friendship and possible long term relationship. I am an easy-going, level-headed and venturesome professional who would like to find a very self-aware amputee or wheelchair-user who can think for himself. Varied interests include spending time in nature, disabled sports, scuba diving and travel - and finding out about *your* interests. Because of my work I can travel almost anywhere for very little cost. If you are interested in developing a relationship of any kind that is based on honesty then please send a letter and mailing address along with a telephone number and a photo if you have one. *Alexander Jones, POB 15, Beckley, WV 25802.*



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WA-WV



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CAN.

**LONDON, ONTARIO.** GWM, healthy, masculine, 33, paraplegic (T10 incomplete), 6'3", 155 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. Very good looking, very active, with muscular upper body. Fourth year university student, financially independent, part time model. Enjoy traveling, working out, collecting antiques, music, and just about anything fun. I have a great attitude, and enjoy life very much. Would like to hear from similar guys. Letter with photo, please. Thanks. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1087.*

**TORONTO, CANADA.** GWM 38, nondisabled, 5'6", well built husky stature, br/hazel, trim beard/stache, masculine, HIV neg. With a Franciscan spirituality I enjoy most of what life has to offer: making friends, outdoor activities, travel, history, museums, cooking, dining out, quiet evenings, sunrises and sunsets, music, animals and more. I am attracted to blue-collar appearances like workboots, hi-top running shoes and Levi 501's, to long hair and to tallness, also to men who use assistive tools - a previous friendship with a man who is an amputee was a very positive experience which I would like to repeat. I am seeking to develop and sustain real friendships with disabled men 18-42 years old who live life to its fullest potential. Perhaps you are active in disabled sports, outdoor activities; above all you possess a strong self-awareness, have a realistic approach to life and are willing to invest into a face to face friendship. Penpals ok, all replies will be promptly answered, photo (returnable) and phone appreciated. Write soon, eh? *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #316.*

**TORONTO, CANADA.** I am a 32 yr. old nondisabled, univ. educated business professional, 6', 160#, with a medium build, short br/gr, well groomed and a conservative clean-cut appearance. I'm a non-smoker, not into drugs, lead a healthy lifestyle and am HIV negative. I can be very serious about things, especially my career, but also know when it's time to relax, "chill out" and have fun. I enjoy all the usual pursuits in my spare time - movies, dining out, cooking, travel, theatre and especially good conversation. I'm not into the scene. I consider myself an articulate, intelligent, nice guy, looking for the same with common interests and values. As long as I can remember I've been attracted to disabled men. My hope is to correspond with, become friends and hopefully pursue a monogamous relationship should I meet that one special man. Please note that sex is not my first priority! You are likely a spinal-injured manual wheelchair user or walk with crutches/braces, between 30 and 55, and can relate to what I'm saying here. Responses with pictures preferred. *R. Mills, Suite #1178, 1930 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario Canada M4S-1Z4.*

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*Why not send A-T a photo  
to be published with your ad?*



ADS

UK

**BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND.** Hi there! I'm an English GWM, 43, 6'2", 160 lbs, seeking friendships and exchanges and hopefully an intimate relationship. I'm polio-disabled but fully mobile and independent. I'm straight-acting, masculine, caring, loving and affectionate; also unselfish, loyal and dependable. I'm into travel, music, socializing and much more. Am relaxed, easy-going and open-minded. I live on the south coast about two hours from London in a wheelchair-friendly bungalow and I welcome house-guests. I also speak German and French and basic Spanish. Hope to hear from you real soon. Take care now. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #572.*

**CHESTER, ENGLAND.** 40 y.o. paraplegic gay English gentleman. Strong and healthy. Likes to swim, drive fast cars, theatre and restaurant visits. Travels to US and Sydney Mardi Gras. Enjoys life, and men with strong character and with a good attitude. Any nationality, age, etc... *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1367.*

**LONDON, ENGLAND.** GWM 51, nondisabled, 5'8", 168 lbs, medium build, 'stache, hirsute and masculine. Interests include country walks, outdoor activities, travel, good company, quiet evenings in with lots of hugs. I'm easy going, genuine, loyal and discreet. I'm seeking contacts and friendship worldwide: let's correspond, exchange photos, thoughts. I would especially like to hear from masculine guys 30-50 who are a/k amputees and maybe looking for that special friendship which hopefully could lead us to that elusive long term committed relationship as lifetime buddies. Please respond with photo. *Replies with correct postage to A-T #752.*

**LONDON, ENGLAND.** Young looking male, 43, 5'9", 140#, slightly disabled by oral surgery, needs to find new ways to earn livelihood. Would like to meet other guys interested in auto business (driving, mechanics), or security (bodyguard, surveillance). Other ideas also considered. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1377.*

**LONDON, ENGLAND.** My name is Peter. I am German, nondisabled, living in London, 35 years old, tall and muscular, looking for amputees for friendship and hopefully visiting in USA or UK. I don't think of your disability as a handicap. I am professional, versatile, positive-thinking. I like traveling, working out, scuba diving, swimming, clubbing, movies, etc. *Peter Leffek, 54 Newbery House, Northampton Street, London N1 2HX, United Kingdom.*

**LONDON, ENGLAND.** GWM 29, 5' 147 lbs., has CP, uses wheelchair, happily in long-term relationship, seeking new friends/pen-friends, with or without disabilities. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1369.*

**LONDON, ENGLAND.** I'm 31 years old and only recently became paraplegic (1985). I've got a good athletic body as I used to play rugby. Still play sports and go to gym. Like eating out, coffee, meals in on a romantic scale. Like to meet other interested men. I travel to



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San Francisco and elsewhere in California 3-4 times a year for 4-6 weeks at a time. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1167.*

**MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.** Nondisabled GWM 59, 5'10", 176#, fit, big moustache. My interests include travel, theatre, letter writing. I am seeking good, open, frank correspondance with males of any age, nationality, with or without disability. Bears especially welcome. Come on guys lets get inside each others heads, I'm unshockable! Photo please. Thanks. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1359.*

**MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.** My name is Bill Naismith. I am co-ordinator for the Manchester Gay/Lesbian Disabled Group. I am a single gay male in my late 30's. I don't smoke, I drink from time to time. I am 5'8", medium build, with short black hair and 'tache. I had polio and walk with the aid of a pair of sticks. I'm looking for connection with masculine men of any age. Happy to accommodate visitors at my home. I am happy to speak to anyone and will reply to all letters. *Call Bill on [UK]-0850 491 131 or replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1371.*

**MIDLANDS, ENGLAND.** Goodlooking ex-public-schoolboy, 29, fit wheelchair-user, looking for intense physical fun and mutual exploration with other disabled/nondisabled guys, under 35 preferred. Appearance: blue eyes, brown hair, muscular and smooth upper body with nice tits, cute and spankable butt too! I have a strong interest in music, art and pushing your and my limits! Can travel/accommodate in UK and will happily correspond abroad. If you're up for it then send frank letter and photo to: *Andy Miller, 6 College Lane, Old Town, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6BU, UK.*

**MIDLANDS, ENGLAND.** I am a semi-retired, middle-aged businessman with numerous activities and live 50 miles north of London. I became paraplegic in 1973 after a car accident in Spain. I cannot walk and use a wheelchair. I am HIV negative. I drive and travel a lot, to Africa as well as in Europe. My other home in Spain is where I go to get away from it all—I swim in my pool and just let the world go by. I consider myself a straight man who just happens to prefer other men; I am in no way hung up about my sexuality but find that I do not fit into the gay "scene". I am serious in my intentions to find the right person, someone who thinks as I do. Sex is not first on my list, friendship is. I know I have the right qualities for a relationship. My interests are many, mainly healthy activities. I am English, also speaking fluent Spanish, conversational French and a bit of Arabic. I get along well with ethnic types and enjoy learning different cultures. I like men who know who they are. I will answer all letters with photo, which I shall return to you with one of mine. I hope to hear from someone who really gets what I'm about. *David M. J. Williams, BA, 1 Laser Close, Shenley Lodge, Milton Keynes, MK5 7AZ, England.*



**NORTHAMPTON, ENGLAND.** GWM 43, nondisabled, fit, sporty, short beard, light hair, blue eyes, muscular and with a hairy body. I would like to meet a gay male with a physical disability, perhaps a guy who is paraplegic. I prefer you be a non-smoker and scrupulously clean; I also tend to find the following features appealing—beards, moustaches, glasses, long hair, hairiness, body piercings. Please write—preferably with photo—and let's begin to find out about each other. *Colin Garner, 30 Muncaster Gardens, East Hunsbury, Northampton, NN4 0XH, UK.*

**NORTH-EAST ENGLAND.** Slim, handsome, 35 year-old Bi tetraplegic male, psychology graduate, into escaping the 'rat-race', travel, healthy food, truth seeking, computers, internet, being naked among nature, especially during thunder storms, and anything alternative. I'm happily married to aware Bi pixie earth girl but need to explore and express a part of my self and my sexuality which has been suppressed and hidden for far too long. Hope to buy land/forestry/property, maybe starting a commune or co-op type of living with compatible other/s, perhaps in continental Europe. I would like to correspond or meet with anyone reading this, Bi or Gay, with or without a disability, who feels attracted or connected to me. I am also looking for a live-in carer, salary to be arranged. ALA, photo appreciated. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #562.*

**NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND.** GWM 36, p/t wheelchair user, 6'2", 180#, close cropped brown/grey hair, receding, sparkling and cheeky brown eyes. I am active with many interests and an open mind. I am looking for new friends. *Dominic Davies, 245 Charlbury Road, Nottingham, NG8 1NF, England, or e-mail: mother@innotts.co.uk.*

**PEAK DISTRICT.** 35 y/o male, large build, neuromuscular impairment—wheelchair-user, clean-shaven, looking to meet guys, 18-40 preferred, initially for friendship. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1374.*

**READING/LONDON.** GWM, 26. Wheelchair user, energetic, dark hair, dark eyes, smooth body. Warm, considerate and laid back, easy going personality. Enjoy good times, good conversation and good fun. I'm creative and have a particular passion for modern art, as I am studying for my fine art degree. Also I enjoy reading, pubs, late nights, and music and concerts a great deal. I have a desire to get involved socially and workwise Stateside. Would like to meet or hear from men who are honest and simply not caught up in the scene so much. Am attracted to guys 25+ who are dark, moderately hairy and energetic with good body. Looking for correspondence and maybe more. Please write, preferably with photo. *David Lock, 62 De Beauvoir Rd, Reading, Berkshire, R91 5NP, UK.*

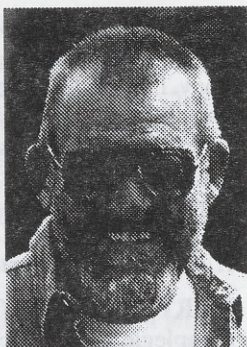
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**SOUTH COAST OF ENGLAND.**

Hi there! My name's Keith. I'm visually impaired but not totally blind—but I do need the support of my guide dog for better mobility. I'm a GWM 54, stocky-built 210 lbs, 5'9" tall, cropped fair hair and full pepper 'n' salt beard, with a hairy bear-type physique. I have a laid-back, warm, caring nature and enjoy the company of loyal, sincere friends. My interests include the arts, books on tape, music, films, television, painting & sketching, travel, places of historical interest, swimming, some sports, countryside & wildlife, and rambles with my faithful Labrador. I would be pleased to correspond with anyone nationally or internationally, with a view to meeting in the future. It is possible for me to read print with the help of low-visual aids or CCTV. I look forward to hearing from all like-minded guys; your photo gets mine—why not make me your blind date? Take care! *Keith May, 23 Ballard Court, Bury Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 3UA, England, ph: (0)1705 524739.*



**SOUTH COAST OF ENGLAND.** Hi—I am 38 years old, 5'5", muscular build and very hirsute. I have dark brown eyes and moustache. I am hearing-impaired and wear hearing aids. I enjoy travel, sport, eating out, and most things in life. I am looking for a professional masculine man who is hard of hearing/deaf/disabled/amputee for fun times, laughter and more. Hope you will write soon. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1466.*

**YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND.** Paraplegic male interested in correspondence/connection. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1115.*

**BELGIUM.** I am a 63 yo, 1.82m, big-bear type. I would like to hear from men of all ages and races, disabled or not, from anywhere in the world. I have some walking difficulties but so far do not need a wheelchair. I'm looking for penpals with a great sense of humor, which I think is a necessity for survival in the world of the young, the beautiful and the strong. If you're able to travel I'll be happy to have you for a guest. Please start with a letter—in english, french, german or dutch—to: *Jacques Goethals, 38 DRIES-bus 2, 2000 Antwerpen 1, Belgium.*

**FRANCE.** English-speaking GWM 34, living in Paris, nondisabled, would like to correspond with goodlooking guys with disabilities. Preferred age range 20-35. Possible visits? *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1424.*

**NETHERLANDS.** I have a real strong admiration for those of us who are amputees and hope to meet one of you this way. You can be any age—and chubby/very fat is also welcome to me. I'm 46, 5'8", 150#, boyish, blond, blue eyes, nondisabled except for some asthma,



shy about this item, discreet, in fashion-design. Pen-pals welcome - your photo gets mine. Hope to hear soon, regards from *Barney, PO Box 438, NE 2130 AK Hoofddorp, Netherlands.*

**SWEDEN/BEYOND.** 41 year old Polish-born nondisabled male, 171 cm tall, weigh 68 kg, dark hair and green eyes and very masculine, with a nice, muscular body, well-developed chest and very strong legs. I would like to make friends with an a/k amputee male. My hope is to go beyond short-term excitement and to wind up spending the rest of my life with a guy whom I can love, respect, have a great friendship with, a great time together with—and a guy who on top of all this is in this certain way which for some reason has special meaning, charge and beauty for me. I imagine you to be between 25 and 50 years old, reasonably good-looking, reasonably intelligent and charismatic, open minded and easy to be with. I'm a professional musician and academic teacher and have a wide range of interests—music, opera, jazz, pop music, theatre, ballet, painting, literature and film, as well as travelling, sports (swimming, weights, biking) and meeting people. *Andrzej Ferber, Roslins vag 1, 3tr, 217 55 Malmo, Sweden, ph: [international]-46 40 913180 or mobile-46 70 799 6836, or e-mail: andrzej.ferber@mailbox.malmo.se*

ADS

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## ABLE-TOGETHER ON-LINE

If you have a personal computer, a modem, and an account with Internet access you have another way to get in touch with A-T.

**E-mail us at: [blaine@well.com](mailto:blaine@well.com)**

If you have access to the world wide web on the 'net, visit A-T's home page:

**<http://www.well.com/user/blaine/able-tog.html>**

cruising the Internet is the ideal medium for men with disabilities. Our disabilities are not the same issue for us in cyberspace as they are in the "real" world. And if we're not in a position to be totally "out" there are ways to ensure our privacy while still enjoying the benefits and excitements of queer electronic friendships. I encourage any of you with the financial resources to consider acquiring a PC and modem: it has opened up whole new worlds for me and perhaps it can for you too.

—Blaine Waterman



## A-T BULLETIN BOARD

### SEXUALITY BOOKLET

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**WHY NOT WRITE FOR A-T?**

**WHY NOT WRITE TO A-T?**

**WHY NOT SEND A-T YOUR LETTERS, POEMS, OPINIONS, ARTICLES & BULLETIN-BOARD ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEWSLETTER?**

***Your voice is important to A-T: WHY NOT BE HEARD?***

### EDGE

#### **EDUCATION IN A DISABLED GAY ENVIRONMENT**

*EDGE meets on the second Sunday of every month at 12.30 pm  
at*

**IDENTITY HOUSE**

**39 WEST 14TH STREET**

**NEW YORK CITY 10011**

**between 5th and 6th Streets**

*Edge is open to people of all abilities and disabilities.*

**For information call Carl at 212 929 7178**



## A-T BULLETIN BOARD

### GAYS OF YOLO COUNTY (GOYC)

We gather to give a helping hand, offering social support, information, education, to those closeted, coming out, or those just needing a friend. We are a safe place if you are dealing with life, AIDS, a broken relationship, disability, or family. Together we learn to trust, to care, to share. Come join us.

WE TREAT EACH OTHER SPECIAL, LIKE WE ARE  
YOLO COUNTY/SACRAMENTO AREA,  
CALL 916 661 9862 for details

### ABLE-TOGETHER

*offers courtesy listings on the Bulletin Board;  
we ask in return that you help publicize A-T by keeping  
some A-T flyers on-hand to distribute  
to members of your Group.*

*A-T is happy to institute Group subscription schemes—  
please talk to us about  
how A-T can be part of your Group.*

### MANCHESTER GAY & LESBIAN DISABLED GROUP

*is open to people of all ages, disabilities and sexualities,  
including those who are bisexual, transsexual and transvestite;  
nondisabled friends, carers and family members also welcomed.*

WHERE: Manchester Gay Centre, Manchester, England

HOW/WHO: call Bill Naismith on [UK] 0850 491 131



ABLE-TOGETHER's Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues are published out of San Francisco, California during the months of January, April, July and October. A-T has postal subscribers across the US and in Canada, the UK and elsewhere across the globe. You can buy A-T at certain gay/progressive bookstores across the US, and also in the UK.

ABLE-TOGETHER is co-edited by Michael Maurillo, who is spinal-injured, and Peter Hegedus, who is nondisabled; A-T seeks to bridge the gaps which our socialization has created from a perspective emphasizing the generation of positive feeling and experience in men's relationships.

ABLE-TOGETHER is its subscribers—who contribute letters, poems, opinions, artwork, articles & bulletin-board items to the newsletter, and help with outreach locally.

ABLE-TOGETHER applies all subscription, sales and donation revenues to production, advertising and outreach costs. A-T's international outreach program includes sending informational materials and flyers to independent living centers and to the disabled students' programs and the gay and lesbian students' associations of colleges in the US and Canada; A-T advertises in US regional gay newspapers, and nationally in publications such as *New Mobility*, *Advocate Classifieds* and *The Disability Rag*; in Canada in *Disability Today*; and in the newsletter of the Spinal Injuries Association and in *Disability Now* and *Gay Times* in the UK.

ABLE-TOGETHER full-year subscribers *only* may submit a personal contact ad for publication for as long as the subscription is active; the ad may be box#-coded for privacy; A-T does not profit from forwarding replies to coded ads, but we do ask that responders reimburse us for our forwarding postage costs—mostly this will be a 32ct stamp; changes and updates to ads are encouraged; A-T reserves the right to edit ads for length and content.

ABLE-TOGETHER costs **\$30US/£22/C/\$42/A\$44** for a full year's postal subscription of four issues, inclusive of a personal contact ad listing at no additional charge; this is reduced to **\$15US/£12/C/\$21/A\$25** for men with low incomes; or you may purchase a single issue, then "upgrade" to a full year's subscription.

ABLE-TOGETHER is news: A-T has received mention in *New Mobility*, in the newsletters of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights and of the Boston Information Center for Individuals with Disabilities, as well as in local gay newspapers such as the *San Francisco Bay Area Reporter* and *All Points North* in the UK. Organizational subscribers include the World Institute on Disability in Oakland, California, the Homodok Archives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society in San Francisco, California.

## ABLE-TOGETHER

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